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ROBERT ELLIOTT SPEER



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NEW YORK

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WORLD WIDE PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.
NEW YORK

Dr. R. E. Speer Gardening at 70

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKEVILLE, Conn., Sept. 10.—The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Speer, retiring secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, today spent his seventieth birthday working in his garden and building a stone wall at his country home here. He received many letters and telegrams of felicitation. Members of the family with him included his daughter, Margaret, who is dean of Wen Chiang University at Peiping.

John 11:27

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

CHARLES R. ERDMAN
PRESIDENT
MISS MARGARET E. HODGE
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
JAMES M. SPEERS
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

September 10, 1937

JS

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
New York City.

Dear Robert:-

In the name of our Board of Foreign Missions, and at the request of officers and members, let me send you a message of cordial congratulation and very best wishes on the seventieth anniversary of your birthday. Other actions more full and formal will express the universal appreciation of all you have done for the Church and for the cause of missions; this is a word of affection and esteem from personal friends. You have been to us all an inspiring ideal and example of unselfish service, of unflinching sympathy and of Christian heroism. It is our confident expectation and earnest prayer that for the many years to come you will continue to enjoy the fruits of your labor, the admiration of your comrades, and the unbounded blessings of our Lord.

Yours affectionately,

Charles R. Erdman

President.

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

September 1, 1937

22

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Lakeville, Connecticut.

My dear Dr. Speer:

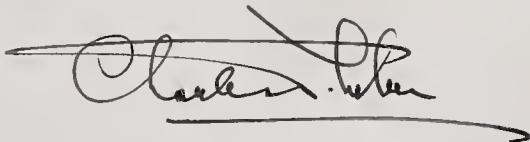
Louise and I would join your many, many friends who are thinking of you on this your seventieth birthday. We join the great number throughout the world who give thanks to God for your life of inspiration and service. It has been a holy privilege from the days of our youth to have known you and to have loved you. These last few years of more intimate contact and fellowship have been all too short but we cherish them as a glorious experience.

I personally thank you for the understanding way in which you have shared with me during the past months of transition. I hope I shall ever be true to the ideals you have set before me. It gives courage to know that you will not be far away so that I can turn to you from time to time for continued counsel.

We know that the years ahead will be rich in memory and we earnestly pray that they will be years in which your strength will abide. May God grant that you will continue to lead us for many years to come!

"A Happy Birthday!" Louise joins me in affectionate greeting to Mrs. Speer and to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles E. Speer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HAROLD MCA. ROBINSON
WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA

September 17/1937

Got

My dear Mr. Speer:

Preoccupation with my
muscle "thorn" in the flesh
has kept me from accurately writing
the passage of time. I did not intend
to be in 10th of September but
by without a word from me to
you. Almost as long as I can
remember you have represented to
me not only the word of work of
the Presbyterian Church but the
heart deep work of Christ in the
life of man. You can never
retire. Deeply
yours
Harold MCA. Robinson

156 Fifth Ave.

New York.

Sep. 10, 1937

Dwt

Dear Dr. Spear:

You and Mrs. Spear have been often in our thoughts and in our conversation today as we have rejoiced with you in the attainment of your "majority" which will free you from the burden of office and administrative duties for a larger service for which you must often have longed during these forty five years.

We rejoiced with you, but our rejoicing lay close to the border of tears as we thought of the inevitable loss your freedom to larger opportunity will bring in the constant intimacy of your relationships here and on

the Mission field. And selfishly we wish that we might still have your strong shoulder of wisdom and experience under the load with us. Nevertheless we know that you will not begrudge us a "boost" when especially difficult problems arise. This is our comfort.

At the noon prayer meeting today Dr. M^offe sat down at the piano and in his beautiful and inimitable way led us in singing expression of the great thoughts that have molded your life and the lives of others through you.

We thank God for you, Dr. Spur, and earnestly hope that the years to come may be packed full of His blessings as you now undertake great unfinished and longed-for tasks for Him.

Most affectionately
DeRoy Dodds.

WORLD STEWARDSHIP UNION

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152 Madison Ave.
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19 S. Vincent Place,
Glasgow, Scotland

550
The Marlboro Inn
Upper Montclair
September 18th, 1937

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Denver Colo., U. S. A.

S. W. CARRUTHERS, M. D., Ph. D.
50 Belvedere Rd. London S. E. 19

My dear Robert:

This morning's Times brings me word of the birthday party to be given you Monday, in celebration of your 70th birthday and your retirement from official connection with the Board. As I am not included among those who will then join in congratulating you upon this notable event, I am sending this line to convey my most hearty and loving message. For, quite apart from our connection as members of the Foreign Missions Staff in those initial years of the Forward Movement, your part in turning the current of my life into the wider interests of the Kingdom of our Lord, was a very important one. You were still a student at Princeton when I was tackling a job much too big for a lad of 22 years, in the Philadelphia Y.M.C.A., and you accepted my invitation to come and speak in the old building at 15th & Chestnut; then we were bed-fellows at "Mother Grant's, and Harry was still in the old home. That now seems to belong to another incarnation, does it not? But the memories are sacred and precious, and I like to look back and see you and myself then keeping step in a path "which shineth more and more unto the Perfect Day".

And so my fond wish for you, is that as eventide draws nearer, that light may indeed grow brighter and brighter, with such a glorious sunset as I saw at sea one evening last week - a veritable gateway to the supernal! May God continue to bless you, (as I am sure He will), as you continue to bear witness to the Truth as it is in Christ our Lord. And believe me, dear Robert,

Ever most Affectionately Your friend,

David M'Conaughy

WILLIAM WATSON SMITH
JOHN G. BUCHANAN
WILLIAM R. SCOTT
FRANK B. INGERSOLL
ALLEN T. C. GORDON
MILES H. ENGLAND
EDGAR D. BELL
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WILLIAM BOOTH
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EMORY R. KYLE

SMITH, BUCHANAN, SCOTT & INGERSOLL

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

UNION TRUST BUILDING

PITTSBURGH, PA.

D70

September 17, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I am very sorry that I do not expect to be in New York on Monday and hence shall not be present at your birthday party. I returned from my vacation just yesterday. I regularly am away the earlier part of September on account of hay fever, and it is difficult for me to leave the office in time for the September meeting. I do not wish, however, to let the opportunity pass of congratulating you on reaching the age of seventy years. They have been seventy years without a parallel in the life of anyone that I know or know about. You have heard me say what I think of your career and I do not repeat it here. I will say only that I hope that it may be extended for a great many years to come. I look forward with the greatest pleasure to seeing you and hearing you when you are in Pittsburgh on October 24th.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John G. Buchanan

JGB:LG

Louis Stoiber
723 Be Gram Avenue
Newark, N. J.

Dr. Sept 18/37

Dear Dr. Speer:

Accept hearty
congratulations from one
who has been proud to know
you for many years,

Sincerely

Louis Stoiber

— 86 —

years young

Member Y.M.C.A. 66 yrs.

Instruction Italian work 45 yrs

Chinese " 7 "

tailors " 7 "

Spanish " 3 "

Officer for 15 years of Jews, Greeks, Poles

40, director Legal aid Socy, Treas^r

second for Branch Y.M.C.A. Newark

Friend of Mr. Bunnay, Moran, Cleveland H.

sledge

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President
W. WHITE

September 13, 1937
(Dictated Sept. 10)

249

Dear Dr. Speer:

I am writing you on what is reported to be your seventieth birthday. Congratulations, and may you have many happy returns.

I have conceived the idea of organizing a foundation known as "Our Mothers Bible Foundation, Incorporated" and, if it works out, I am proposing to ask everyone who reaches the seventieth birthday to make a contribution towards this foundation and to appeal to all who are above seventy to become interested. It would be started by those who are seventy and over.

I believe that the Christians who have reached that age in this country are more keen in realizing the importance of laying foundations by use of the Scriptures, and my conviction is that the time is ripe for such a movement.

I shall forward to you later, if not with this, a statement of the work of two of our students, one just graduated last May and the other having taken one year with us, who organized and taught twenty-nine Bible classes in an area covering parts of five counties in Ohio this summer, starting from their own home. I took the venture with them, and we had a rally at Mansfield, Ohio, last Sunday. I spoke at three meetings, and the possibility is that one of these boys will follow up this work in an independent way in fullest harmony with and having the fullest sympathy of the pastors of that region.

I believe that, in a sense, properly trained teachers of the Bible are more important than the usual type of preachers. I am wondering if a crusade in this direction in our own country is not the thing and about the only thing that will save it from destruction.

At any rate, I submit this for your careful, prayerful consideration.

Affectionately yours,

Willis W. White

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Lakeville
Connecticut

MAC135 22 5 EXTRA SC=TDPE AVOCA PENN *D. G*
DR ROBERT E SPEER=

:24 GRAMERCY PARK NYK OR FORWARD LAKEVILLE CONN=

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY AND MANY YEARS
OF FAITHFUL SERVICE MAY GODS RICHEST BLESSINGS BE YOURS=

:LACKAWANNA PRESBYTERIAL MRS H N WELLER PRESIDENT.

.626P.

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

1937 SEP 10 AM 3 47

Received at

MRAF 53 NL 5 EXTRA=DESMOINES IOWA 9

ROBERT E SPEER=

156 5TH AVE NYK= *D. G*

DESMOINES PRESBYTERY MEETING AT HIGHLAND PARK CHURCH DEEPLY
TOUCHED BY SOUND FILM AND ITS PORTRAYAL OF ONE HUNDRED
YEARS OF PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS SEEING AND HEARING YOU
ON THE SCREEN WAS NEXT BEST THINK TO HAVING YOU WITH US
IN PERSON SINCERE AND HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
70TH BIRTHDAY=

:WILLIAM H PHELPS MODERATOR THEODORE MORNING
STATED CLERK.

NBH163 13 SC=FTSMITH ARK

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

:156 FIFTH AVE= *D. G*

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FROM OKLAHOMA SYNOD MAY YOU HAVE MANY
MORE YEARS TO SERVE=

W WARD DAVIS.

TDK INDEPENDENCE MO

Jig

13

DR ROBT E SPEER

156 FIFTH AVE NYK

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INDEPENDENCE MISSOURI GREET'S YOU ON
OCCASION YOUR SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY WE GLORY IN MATCHLESS SPIRIT THAT
HAS MARKED YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE AND PLEDGE OURSELVES TO THE SAME
CHRIST IN WHOSE NAME YOU HAVE LABORED MAY YOU BE SPARED TO SERVE HIM
AND THE CHURCH FOR MANY YEARS TO COME

WALTER L CLARK MINISTER

Received at

LAKEVILLE, CONN.

.NE21 10 XC=GRANVILLE OHIO SEP 10 1004A

ROBERT E SPEER=

Jig

CONGRATULATIONS HOPE YOU HAVE MANY MORE YEARS OF ABUNDANT
USEFULLNESS=

T F CHAMBERS.

1043A.

Received at

LAKEVILLE, CONN.

INAM30 25 DL=MJ NEWYORK NY SEP 10 1117A

DOCTOR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

Jig

NEWYORK SYNODICAL SOCIETY EXTENDS CORDIAL GREETINGS WITH
GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF YOUR DEVOTED WORLD WIDE SERVICE
SINCERE WISHES FOR MANY MORE YEARS OF JOY AND BLESSING=

MRS JOHN H MILLS.

.1243P.

Received at

BRIDGEVILLE, CONN.

.NAH25 30 NL 4 EXTRA=UD STPAUL MINN SEP 10

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

29

WE OF MINNESOTA SYNOD AND STPAUL PRESBYTERY EXPRESS
GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GREAT SERVICE TO THE WHOLE CHURCH AND
EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES UPON YOUR BIRTHDAY=
ARTHUR LEE ODELL HOUSE OF HOPE CHURCH.

Received at

BRIDGEVILLE, CONN.

NAA21 34 DL=HO NEWYORK NY SEP 10 735A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

24

DEAR BOB I SEND AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS UPON YOUR REACHING
THIS PINNACLE TODAY HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU EVER DO IT DO
YOU SUPPOSE BY LONG PERSISTENCE I MAY ACHIEVE THE SAME=
AL MCCORD.

829A

Received at

BRIDGEVILLE, CONN.

NE16 12=SL NEWYORK NY SEP 10 948A

DR ROBT E SPEER=LA=

21

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCEREST REGARDS AND HEARTIEST
CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS IMPORTANT DAY=

DAVID WALTER MCCORD.

1016A...

ROBERT E SPEER=

:LAKEVILLE CONN=

221

15

TARDY BUT AFFECTIONATE CONGRATULATIONS UPON YOUR BIRTHDAY
AND FORTY SIX YEARS OF SPLENDID SERVICE=

:BETTY MORROW=

•705A•

282

Saturday Sept 18/37

"CLIFFSIDE"
BOLTON ROAD
LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK

My dear Robert

My inability to be in New York
on Monday for our Board of Foreign
Missions dinner in your honor brings
to me one of the greatest disappointments
in my life

My daughter is having her vacation
up here at our summer home, and
as we are alone, none of the rest of the
family bring with us, I cannot leave
her and as she is very tired and needs
the rest I cannot take her with me.

Trusting that you will understand and
expecting to be with you in Baltimore
next month

Yours affectionately

W. Stevenson

Dr Robert E. Speer
156 74th Ave



ECHO LAKE, FRANCONIA NOTCH

Genuine Photograph

GREETINGS FROM THE
WHITE MOUNTAINS, N. H.

My dear Dr. Spence, Clinton, N. Y. I met
my daughter and I had the privilege
of hearing you speak in Uxbridge (and
one such...) when you kindly put
your name in her birthday book.
Last Sunday, being in camp on
Albany Lake, we went to Cooperstown
to church. Dr. Lovett and Robinson -
I loved Communion; and in his fine
sermon he referred to your taking
the modern version of #9 in 2:8

Remember Jesus Christ - Mr.
Spoke's heir afterward, he was in
Stone Church, Clinton, from 1892-1896 -
What connecting links have are.
If the book for Uxbridge - I don't think
I need of Mrs. Spence's book, and
keep an extra one on hand to lend.
Sincerely,
Betty Swallow

Clinton, N. Y.



Birthday
Greetings

Esale Cottage

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Franconia N.H.
Sept. 10. 1937.

Dear Rob: —

Son

My Birthday book tells me that this is your Birthday, and altho I am late in sending you my best wishes I want to do it, nevertheless, I hope that you have had a very happy day. My mind goes back to the wonderful talks you and Father used to have at "4103" as we still call it.

I chose from Father's Library when we divided it, all of your books which you had autographed, and I prize them more than I can tell you. With love to Emma and a God-bless you I am
Affectionately your friends
Phil + Annie S. Howard

Nov. 6: 24 No 26

72 Saratoga Ave -
Cohoes - N. Y.

Dat Sept. 8/37

Dear D. Speer:

Birthdays letters are still in order even if we are "retired" members of the "156" Family:

I am glad the office grind is over for you - and I hope you have many years ahead to enjoy your Lakeville home -

Glad to see that Margaret is safely home (or was to be this week) - But oh, the news from China is awful. One hundred.

years ago the Presbyterian Church
began a land war - well - only
God knows where and when it
will end.

I hope I may see you some
time in New York when our
ways may cross.

In the meantime the best
of good wishes to you and yours.
When do you close the Gramercy
Park residence?

A friend here in Coloes took
two of my cousins and me over
to Dorset last week and I had
three hours with Amanda
Jefferson and Emily Miror at

"Manorside" - Amanda is
well and as happy as ever doing
for others - But Emily is
steadily going down the hill -

With cordial greetings

Your friend
Jeanette McMillan



"Eliav" wishes my friend
Robert E. Spear - many
happy years ahead -
"Eliav" posed for this
snap at Ogunquit - Maine/July '37

Taken by
Jeanette McMillan

Received at

NU145 57 NL=CHICAGO ILL SEP 9

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

DL

NOW WHEN THE FOUR SCORE AND TENTH BIRTHDAY WAS COME MANY FRIENDS AROSE TO SPEAK AND FROM THEIR LIPS DROPPED MANY PEARL LIKE WORDS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS TO GOD FOR SUCH A FULL LIFE WHOSE ACHIEVEMENTS SHONE LIKE PURE GOLD IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF THE WESTERN SUN STOP AMONG THOSE WHO SPAKE WERE TWO=

ANN T REID JAMES E DETWEILER.

740A.

Received at

NU146 8 NL=TW WASHINGTON DC

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

ROCK LEDGE LA=

DL

LOVE AND BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY=

REX.

.734A.

NU142 37 NL=NEWYORK NY SEP 9

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

DL

FOR FORTY OF YOUR SEVENTY YEARS YOUR LIFE AND MESSAGE HAVE INSPIRED MY LIFE AND WORK TODAY I WOULD SHARE IN SPIRIT YOUR BIG BIRTHDAY JOY AND SEND FOR MYSELF AND GINLING GREETINGS AND HEARTIEST GOOD WISHES=

MRS LAWRENCE THURSTON.

729A.

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

GENERAL DEPARTMENT
M. DODD, M. D.

September 9, 1937

D.S.
Dr. Robert E. Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Conn.

My dear Mr. Speer:

This happy occasion serves to let us say some of the things we want to say and which often go too long unsaid. And yet there is entirely too much that one wants to say.

I am one of the greatly favored ones who have been brought up, as it were, under three of the outstanding phases of your life work.

My thought goes back first to Princeton and Northfield and those rich and inspiring associations of the student world of those days. I can think of meeting after meeting in packed Murray Hall or exuberant Northfield when we were lifted out of ourselves by you and were given a vision which was beyond price. Inadequately though, so many of us have followed through, yet there is no limit to what those forces and influence have meant. I wish the present student generation had something remotely comparable to what you gave us.

Then my thought goes back to Persia of the War days when some of us were thrust suddenly into the maelstrom and all but went under completely. I doubt if you have any idea of what you meant to us through that time. Even when we in Urumia and later Tabriz were without foreign mail for very nearly a solid year, and did not even know how the war was going, we were constantly heartened and upheld by the thought of you here in New York. We knew you bore us on your heart and that everything that could humanly be done would be done. And whatever happened, we knew you would understand. That experience was of course only one small segment of the work abroad, which has so looked to you all these years.

Finally, there have been these years of close association under your leadership, - such as I would never have dreamed of - at 156. It is quite impossible to do any justice to all this. Those of us who have had this great good fortune can only be humbly thankful for it and hope and pray that in some small measure we may worthily carry on up the same road.

We know you will be glad to hear of the fine Retreat we had at Poughkeepsie. There was an on-going, harmonious, prayerful spirit, which seems to me to augur well. We missed you more than we can tell you.

Now that you are released from the harness and can have a certain sense of well earned freedom, may this birthday mark the beginning of another period of great contribution and deep satisfaction to you.

Loyally and affectionately,
hus

ALICE M. WHITE
10 MONROE STREET, APARTMENT K. D. 2
NEW YORK CITY

AW
Dear Dr. Speer:

Just a line to wish you a happy birthday. You deserve this and a great deal more. One hears so many nice things said of you on every hand that it would take reams of paper to repeat them.

This gives me a chance to say what a privilege it has been to work for you. You have taught me a lot, and I am only sorry that I didn't quite conquer the handwriting.

It is nice to think of you and Mrs. Speer in your lovely place at Lakeville. I hope you won't stay there too much, however, as even though you are entitled to a rest there aren't many speakers in the world of your ability.

With kind regard to Mrs. Speer -

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Alice M. White

September 9, 1937

September 9, 1957

Dre

Dr. Speer:

Harriet and I send you our love and greetings on your birthday and wish you many happy returns of the day. We know it will be a glad day for you with your daughter at home and we rejoice with you and Mrs. Speer that she can be with you. As we think of you reaching three score and ten, all we can say is that we shall be quite proud of ourselves if, at that age, we have half your vigor of mind, body and spirit.

It is hard for us at "156" to view your retirement with any equanimity and we admire you for the early spirit you have shown during these days. As I look back over the more than twenty years that have been associated with you in the Board I want to thank you for the privilege of working by your side in the greatest work in the world and for your patience and kindness to me when, at times, you must have disagreed with me in plans and programs I advocated on these occasions. You have set us all an example of a consistent devoted Christian life and the memory of these years will always be an inspiration to us. It is nice to know that you have so many years of service ahead of you — years in which you will have time to do many things you have longed to accomplish. Our interest and prayers will follow you and Mrs. Speer wherever you may be.

Sincerely,
Your friend,
William P. Shell

D-28

Glendale, Ohio. September 23rd. 1937.

Dear Doctor Speer:-

I had in mind your Birthday is in this month but let slip the date. However, I am sending greetings though a little late.

Among the multitude of messages you have received, and are receiving, allow me to send my little one.

It will take time for us to reorient ourselves and think of our Board of Missions without your official headship, but the record and memory of it will abide.

All the shining words, valiant, knightly, Christlike, belong to that service.

Surely, Paul, Peter, John, - Apostles all - and the goodly company of missionaries throughout the ages and those of today applaud the record.

And we may believe Christ says "Well done."

Delivered from official details, free with command of time and ways, the future will be of ever-expanding service, "unto the Perfect Day."

Faithfully,

Calvin Dill Wilson

MY SWORD I GIVE TO HIM
THAT SHALL SUCCEED ME
IN MY PILGRIMAGE,

and my Courage and Skill to him
that can get it. My marks & scars
I carry with me to be a witness for
me that I have fought His battles
Who now will be my Rewarder.

WHEN the day that he must go
hence was come, many accompa-
nied him to the River-side, into
which as he went he said:
"Death where is thy Sting?" &
as he went down deeper he said:
"Grave, where is thy Victory?"

SO HE PASSED OVER,
and all the trumpets sounded
for him on the other side.

Pilgrim's Progress.

INWOOD AVENUE
MONTCLAIR, N. J.

Dr

Sept. 8, '37

Dear Mr. Spurr:-

Knowing you love for
birthday greetings, here's one more!

Never did a retirement date come
more deservedly, nor with greater hope
that the accumulated earned increment
of 20 years of highly productive living would
be more profitably employed in the years
that follow.

may God continue to bless you and
yours very richly.

Sincerely yours,

George Scott

Received at

NE24 26 DL=WX NEWYORK NY SEP 10 1032A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

Dr

CONGRATULATIONS AND GRATITUDE FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE MEANT
TO ME PERSONALLY THROUGH THESE YEARS THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN
YOURSELF TO THE SERVICE OF THE MASTER=

JOSEPH C ROBBINS.

1100A

LAKEVILLE, CONN.

NZ72 42 DL 1 EXTRA=LA MINNEAPOLIS MINN SEP 10 1222P

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

Dr

MEMBERS LAY AND CLERGY OF MINNEAPOLIS PRESBYTERY MEETING TO
PLAN FOR THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION GREET YOU TODAY WITH
SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR
CHRIST THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD AND WITH AFFECTIONATE
GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR FUTURE=

RAY SORENSON FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.

Mrs. Arthur E. Hill
66 Clinton Place
New York City.

Drs,

Heartly congratulations on
this four anniversary and
the culmination of one period
of service worth in its
fruits. All good wishes for
happy years ahead.

Bess Talman Bell
(Mrs. Arthur E.)

both for Charles and myself,
my gratitude and affection.

May the birthday be
a very, very happy one;
Surrounded by your dear
ones who are near in
physical presence; and
also in that dear
fellowship with those who
are near in the spirit!

Yours faithfully,
Nobel M. Royce.
(Mrs C.K.)

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

MENT OF ANNUITIES
T F. HALL, SECRETARY

Del

September 8, 1937.

Dear Mr. Spear -

Mrs. Hall joins me in wishing you many happy returns of your anniversary. It will seem strange to Mr. Board and Council members without you. You have been the embodiment of the Board to the Church for a long time and it will be difficult to carry on without you. You have done a remarkable amount in helping to fight the program of our work - "this is your field to be sown and the produce is for the world." You will still be serving to this end and in helping to realize the watchword of the Student Volunteer Movement "in this generation."

We wish for you and Mrs. Spear joy and peace in your continuing service for the Master.

Sincerely
Ernest Hall

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF ANNUITIES

ERNEST F. HALL, SECRETARY

E. F. Hall

September 9, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Lakeville, Connecticut.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Miss Margaret Hilles Shearman whom you have known for many years has sent to the Board \$1,000 on the annuity plan. She is to receive the annuity during her lifetime and when the Agreement terminates the amount available is to become a Fund. She gives it in recognition of your great service to the Church. In a letter received from her this morning she writes

"It is my desire to give it in grateful and loving recognition of the long years of inspiring and distinguished service given to Christ and His Church by Robert Elliott Speer - whose vision, courageous leadership and faith have built up the Church of God in many lands."

She requests that the Fund be named the Robert Elliott and Emma Bailey Speer Fund and that you and Mrs. Speer together with your daughter Margaret designate in what way the money shall be used when it becomes available. She does not say whether the entire amount shall be used at one time or whether she wishes only the income to be used. I am writing to her asking her particularly on this point. Since, however, she has left to you the designation of the way in which the money shall be used, it may not make any difference and she may leave it entirely to your judgment.

This letter should reach you on the 10th and will be one more tribute among the many which you will receive from your friends on that day.

Very sincerely,

Ernest F. Hall

Ernest F. Hall, Secretary.

BFH/EC

CR E N D I C E

Drs

Dear Dr. Spear,
I hope you will have a
nice birthday. Best wishes
to all. See you in Oct.

THE LOOK AHEAD

Drs

I am done with the years that were:
I am quits:
I am done with the dead and old;
They are mines worked out,
I delved in their pits;
I have saved their grain of gold.

Now I turn to the future
For wine and bread,
I have bidden the past adieu
I laugh and lift hand to the years ahead
"Come on! I am ready for you!"

-Edwin Markham

Dear Dr. Spear - Birthdays
and congratulatory on your
birthday. Good wishes for
the days ahead.
Sincerely - R. P. Hamner



Felicitations and congratulations
to Dr. Spear on the beginning of
the years when tasks and pleasures
long reckoning can at last be
followed:

Eva B. A. Macmillan

10 September 1937

FORTY-FIVE NORTHVIEW AVENUE
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

Sept. 7th 1937.

Dear Robert;

I have already joined with the other members of the staff in birthday greetings and retirement good wishes, but I want to add a personal word as you and I both leave the office and are not likely to see as much of each other as we have done for the past ten years. We were appointed by the Board, you as Sec-

personal affections and the expressions of your confidence which I have received through the years.

May God bless you with yet richer years to come.

Affectionately,

Continay H. Fenn

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

FOUNDED 1716

OLD FIRST, UNIVERSITY PLACE AND MADISON SQUARE FOUNDATION

Drs

NEW YORK, Sept. 24/37

Dear Dr. Speer: -

Your suggestion of resigning from the First Presbyterian Church Session was brought before that body at its regular meeting yesterday, and met with most serious opposition. We all so value the association, that we beg you to continue with us, and, if occasionally when in town you can meet with us or join us at the Communion table, we hope you will do so.

We know that you are with us always in spirit & will welcome anything more that may be rough-safed, but will, of course, not expect any special trips.

We all hope you & Mrs Speer will find Lakeville a happy headquarters, and join in best wishes to you both.

Faithfully,

Roger H. Bullman
Clerk

To: -

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Lakeville, Ct.

The "lovely light" is
not from the candles
but from the shining
of your life thru the
years.

This is just a personal
greeting to add to our
corporate message!

Fulton Elliott

108244
NORCROSS
NEW YORK

31
A Birthday
Wish



ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

The Lord
bless thee

and keep
thee

NUMBERS 6-24

I just learned yesterday
from Mamma + Father, of your
Birthday celebration last
week. If it is not too late,
may I add mine to the other
wishes for your Happiness

Very Sincerely
Brooke McDonald Loren.

Dear Dr. Speer, -

I send this greeting with sincere appreciation of the privilege of having known you through these many years. We look forward to seeing you often in the days to come.

Sincerely yours,

Sept 9-1937 Augustine Schefer

May your heart and your home
be happy
In the blessings which come
from above,
And this birthday be one of
rejoicing
In the gifts of God's
infinite love.

"The Lord hath done great things
for us; whereof we are glad."

Ps. 126 : 3

With deepest appreciation
of all you have meant to us,
Faithfully,
Edith Condit



470 WEST 24TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Monday night
on the train

My dear Dr. Spear

Last week I had
the privilege of joining with
Executive Council and to-night
with the Board in special
greetings to you but I have a
great desire to say a ^{personal} word
of deep gratitude to you,
and for you.

In the nearly twenty-four
years in which I have
been connected with me

Board, you and Mrs
Turner and Miss Hodge
have been my constant
inspiration and help.

It has been the greatest
privilege of my life
to be associated with you.
Your faith, your vision
your courage have meant
more to me than I can
put into words. I have taken
it all and said nothing

bel-to-night-I want to say this word
of gratitude from a very free heart.
If we can only go forward now along
the lines you have so wisely laid.
We shall much need your help
and wise counsel

This note is not to be answered.
Yours.

Thank God for our true friend
and inspiring leader - Robert E. Spear

Faithfully yours
Gertrude Bell

1238 WAVERLY PLACE
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

September 9, 1937.

My dear Dr. Spear,

On the occasion of your
seventieth birthday Mrs Trull and I
send to you our sincere congratulations
and thank God for what your life
and writings and friendship have meant
to us. The days that are past are
full of achievement and we trust that
those ahead will be filled with as great
joy in service, and may the time be long.

Yours sincerely,

George H. Trull



PRINCE GEORGE HOTEL

FIFTH AVENUE & 28TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

Aug

September 10, 1937

My dear Robert:--

At the prayermeeting today we thought about you and your work and thanked God for both. Our hymns were selected to accent the things which you have stressed in your life. I told the people that your central interest has always been in the Person and Work of our Lord, as judged by your books and addresses. So we sang "Crown Him with many crowns." Then, that you had accented the Church, not as a mere human fact but also as the body of Christ and hence one Church around the world. I mentioned the familiar Church hymns as possibilities but we sang the Oxenham "In Christ there is no East or West," with its fine verses about joining hands around the world. Then, that you had been keenly interested in education, especially at the point where young people made their decision both for the Master they would serve and the work they would do for Him, and we sang the hymn, "Christ of the Upward Way," a fine commitment hymn. Finally we sang the Centennial Hymn in a higher key than the one printed and it went with a swing which even the oldsters thought was better than usual. Before they left, I added that you had always had a deep interest in the Return of our Lord and we would have sung a hymn of His Return if there had been time. But there were many missionaries on hand and a long Year Book list, so that we could not complete the service as I had hoped to do with a strong hymn of His Coming.

It made a delightful service and everybody went away thinking more of your Lord than of yourself, I am sure, as you would have it be. But how dazed the people are around the offices! I have been seeing some of them and are glad to find such unanimity and earnestness, but they are trying to find their way in the new conditions. And they will find it, too.

I trust you have had a happy day and will have many happier ones still. We start West Wednesday, using the interim for some things that have to be done in view of a year's absence. Mrs. McAfee joins me in good wishes to yourself and Mrs. Speer and the household.

Affectionately,

Alburn Gutterson

NBH162 10 SC=FTSMITH ARK

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

156 FIFTH AVE=

03

LOVING SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO ONE OF THE VERY
FINEST:

=GEORGE WRIGHT.

FAST



RCA

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SPEER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MULLERS

AM 4 11
BR 4

CDAE8 21 SC=WXCINCINNATI OHIO

ROBERT E SPEER=

156 FIFTH AVE=

and

AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORST CORRESPONDENTS OUR
PRAYER THAT YOUR RETIREMENT MAY MEAN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVEN
GREATER SERVICE FOR CHRISTS KINGDOM=

MR AND MRS MCCUSKEY.

759 Ridgeway Ave.
Cincinnati, O.

Sept. 24, 1937

Robert C. Speer, ^{Dr.}
156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Perhaps Mrs. Meluskey and I were a little "previous," or impulsive, in sending you that telegram on September 10th. We had read in some letter or bulletin from India that that date was your 70th anniversary of your birth and also the probable date of your so-called "retirement."

Also I have feared that the wording of the telegram may have seemed a little flippant rather than as serious as we intended.

So if our telegram seemed in any sense not suitable to the date and occasion I do hope you will pardon us.

As a matter of fact I do feel that I have been a very bad correspondent

all these years you have been "our" India Secretary and both Mrs McKinley and I must be sadly up on the list of your "worst correspondents."

Nevertheless we are unwilling to admit that any of our fellow-missionaries feel more deeply the official change that is occurring these days or will occur when you take up a new relationship to us.

I use the words "official" and "relationship" advisedly because I feel sure that personally you will be as you have always been a good and helpful friend to each and all of us in the India field. And even if you may not continue as our "Secretary" I do hope you will continue in some close relationship with our Mission and with us as your fellow-missionaries.

I have always regretted the fact of our furlough taking place in the year you visited the Punjab Mission

-3-

and again this year we could not succeed in our plan to attend the General Assembly - of all misfortunes to miss the Centennial General Assembly and your address.

Mrs McInerney and I have had the joy of being with our children this summer. Mrs W^m B. Wherry, (now a widow) gave us the use of her home here while she has been in Japan and our son Donald has lived with us. Our daughter Frances, a nurse in a hospital not far away, has frequently been with us over the week ends and our son William has come from Vandergrift, Pa. once or twice a month for 2 to 4 days. Our oldest child - Margaret - has of course been in India after her and her husband's recent furlough - (Mr & Mrs Rhea M. Ewing) Did you know they adopted a beautiful baby girl, while at home? "Peggy" is her name now! - Margaret later on!

We will continue to reside in

Cincinnati ⁴ This winter, though
probably not in this particular
house.

If you should happen to come
to Cincinnati, do let us know as
we should very much like to add
a few more minutes to the fleeting
brief seconds (almost) we saw of
you at 156 Fifth Ave in May.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,
Frank B. Meluskey.

SYLVESTER WOODBRIDGE BEACH, D. D.
CROWN HOTEL
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Sept. 21. '37

Dr. Robert E. Spear, ^{Dr}
Religious Board of Foreign Missions
156 7th Ave. New York

Dear Robert:-

I see in the N. Y. Times of Sat-
urday, the 18th, that on Monday, the
20th, the officers of the Board
were to give you a Dinner by way
of the recognition of your 70th
birthday, which, ~~on~~ on September 10th,
constituted you a septogenarian,

I wish I could take
your hand and say "God bless
you, dear boy".

My congratulations, are

Somewhat belated, but I must
write with thousands of other
friends in wishing you many
happy returns.

On the 24th of July I
attained the age of 85 years. It
is difficult to accept the fact that
I was born in Woodville, Miss.
July 24, 1852.

I thank God for good health,
and especially that I have this gift
of three daughters who are ever
an increasing joy & blessing. In-
deed I can say "My Cup Runneth
over". Dear Tom - Johnson has
been bedridden four years. I see
him once my week. His patience is
marvelous and he has beautiful acquiescence
to the will of God.

Again let me offer my loving congrats,
alation to you as I thank God for all the way
enabled me to do. You are all ^{my} best ever
51 ^{Walter Woodville} Woodville, Miss.

WM. E. ALLISON
1803 CAMPUS ROAD
EAGLE ROCK, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Gr

Sept. 8, 1937

Dear Dr. Speer:-

We have your recent letter. By this time you will have closed out your work at 156. However we well know that as long as life lasts you will continue to make a constructive contribution to missions.

Our best wishes are for you during the coming days, and it is our prayer that you may long be spared to make your influence count for every thing that is helpful and stimulating, in the great cause of Christ.

Mrs. Allison and I join in thanking you for all that you have done in our behalf, and we are grateful for the fellowship of the years, especially for the last short visit at the table at the time of the recent conference.

We are interested in what you say about visiting home of Moody. We had a similar thrill sometime ago when visiting Will and May Whittle Moody. Mrs. Allison's family and the Whittles were next door neighbors for many years and May and she were girl hood playmates and schoolmates. Her father was family physician of the the Moody family as he was of the Whittle and Fleming Revell families.

May the richest blessing of God be yours through all the coming years.

Cordially yours,

Wm. E. Allison

REVELL

63

September 28, 1937

Robert E. Speer, D.D.
Lakeville,
Conn.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

It really is difficult to express to you the feeling that my Cousin and I have in no longer being able to drop in and see you here so near at hand. I know that you are receiving letters from a great many of your friends, but I do want to express our admiration and affection, which have grown with the years.

I hope that whenever you can, you will stop in and see us, for we wish to keep in touch with you.

In the meantime, with our compliments, we are sending you a copy of HENRY WARD BEECHER'S SPEAKING ART by Lionel Crocker, together with our latest announcement of new books, for I am sure you will wish to have this important volume in your library.

Very cordially yours,

FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

Wm R. Barbour

William R. Barbour

Santiago Chile
August 22, 1937

93
1

Dear Dr. Speer:

The Mission has named Mr. Edwards to write an official letter to you but Mrs. Elmore and I want to send you this personal expression of thanks and appreciation of your kindness and attention to us during the years we have been in the mission field.

Only one who has lived so far from home base can realize what it means ^{to} count the Board Secretaries as personal friends, and one of the joys of going home on furlough ^{is to} greet and be greeted by the friends in the office.

Mrs. Elmore and I have always valued highly the privilege we have had in being associated with you in the work of the Mission. We hope that as you get done some of the many things you must have left for the next few years that you may find time for another visit to South America. You may be sure that it would be a great pleasure to us all to receive you again.

With kindest regards to both you and Mrs. Speer, in which Mrs. Elmore joins me, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Robert B. Elmore

Sangli, India,
August 20, 1937.

43

63

Dear Dr. Speer:-

This is in no sense a letter of business, but one of keen regret, also appreciation and gratitude, as you give up your direct contact with the secretarial office in the Board. You have been an old friend of the Goheen family and have been a great help and encouragement to our members many times. I deeply appreciate the way you've called me, 'John', and have treated me as a son for many years.

It is indeed very hard, then, to think that you are no longer to be at 156 Fifth Ave, and 'at the helm', where you've been helping to steer affairs, by God's great goodness and guidance, for many years. We'll all miss your strong letters so full of the faith that is never shaken, and we'll miss the good cheer and encouragement that they've always borne. No, we don't at all like to think that you are not to be found in the old familiar room, and that your cheering presence is not there anything like so frequently as in the past, in those comforting Board rooms. We do believe you are to be there occasionally, but you'll be so very greatly missed.

I personally want to thank you for the encouragement you've always given me both by practice and precept. And I also want to thank you for the deep interest you've always taken both in our work - I refer to Mrs. Goheen as well - and our family. We've come to think of the 'tower of strength' we have in our beloved Dr. Speer, and we can never be too grateful for such support as you've always given us, and have extended to all of our colleagues.

May it be possible, though, for you to come out to India at least once again. We'll all welcome you so very heartily and gladly, and we will hope that Mrs. Speer may be along too. I'm glad to have seen the attractive home which is yours in Lakeville - I saw it once while passing, and I do hope that you'll be able to enjoy it - both of you - to your hearts' content.

Yours very gratefully,

John H. Goheen.

August 20, 1937. 43

Dear Dr. Speer:-

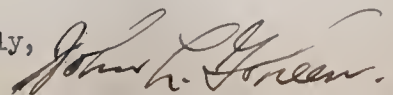
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Yours very gratefully,



TANGNEY-McGINN

HOTEL RUSSELL-LAMSON
WATERLOO, IOWA

HOTELS

HOTEL SHELTON-MUNN
AMES, IOWAHOTEL PRESIDENT
WATERLOO, IOWA

CO.

HOTEL ROGERS
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOISHOTELS SAVERY - FORT DES MOINES - KIRKWOOD
DES MOINES, IOWA

WRITTEN FROM

Kirkwood Hotel,
Des Moines, Ia.
Sept 9thMy dear Dr. Sheer, ⁶³

On the eve of your seventieth birthday, I want to send you my heartiest congratulations, and wish you many more years of happiness and God's richest gifts and blessing on you + yours.

I can't tell you how heavy my heart is as I think of your retirement from our Board, or how much we missionaries will miss your love and devotion to us and our cause. You will now know how much your wise and loving guidance has meant to us on the field, and I with a host of others are wondering how we can carry on when you are no longer at the helm.

Yesterday I spoke at Hamburg, Ia., before the Coming Assembly. In closing I referred to the

TANGNEY-McGINN

HOTEL RUSSELL-LAMSON
WATERLOO, IDWA

HOTELS

HOTEL SHELTON-MUNN
AMES, IDWAHOTEL PRESIDENT
WATERLOO, IDWA

CO.

HOTEL ROGERS
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOISHOTELS SAVERY · FORT DES MOINES · KIRKWOOD
DES MOINES, IDWA

WRITTEN FROM

Centennial, & ²pleased with those present to ²raise the Centennial offering of \$1,000,000 and said how much it would mean to your great heart and to our work to "go over the top."

There was great applause and I realized how near and dear you were to our Church here at home. I feel sure that the Church will rise to the opportunity & challenge and meet it adequately. This evening I speak at the Des Moines Synodistry.

Your thoughts, prayers & good wishes go with you and may God continue to use your great talents in ever increasing measure through the years to come.

With kindest regards,
Very sincerely yours,
A. E. Heater.

EWING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
ALLAHABAD U. P., INDIA

Air Mail

August 23, 1937.

08

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City

Dear Dr. Speer:

I have been such a poor correspondent during the years that I have been in India that my right to send you a greeting at this time might be questioned: it could be correctly said that it would have been more to the point if I had written regularly over the period that I have been in India. However that may be, I crave the privilege, now that you are retiring from the Board office, of trying to express my appreciation of all -- and that "all" is so much more than can be put into words -- that you have meant to me and to all of us sent to India by the Presbyterian Church to witness for Christ.

Of the many ways, direct and indirect, in which you have helped me there is none for which I am as grateful as for your constant emphasis on the uniqueness and the centrality of Christ as the basis and foundation of our own faith and of our work as missionaries. Here in India there is a considerable pull from many directions towards a syncretism that would lessen the recognition of the uniqueness of Christ, and your Board letters and your books have helped me to keep my thinking straight.

Dr. Higginbottom wrote on behalf of us all to invite you and Mrs. Speer to come and spend a year with us in Allahabad Christian College. It would mean great blessing to the College and to all of the work in India if you could come, and I do hope it will prove possible, if not at once, then at some later time. We assure you of a very hearty welcome -- and of enough preaching and teaching to keep you busy!

When I started to India in 1917 I was one of a party of which Leroy and Ora Dodds were the only married couple, and at that time there began a friendship with them that has grown in richness through the years. If we can not longer have you as the Secretary for India, I am glad it is Leroy Dodds who is to succeed you, for he knows and loves India, and he has a discerning mind and a beautiful spirit.

The task of officiating as principal of Ewing College this year that Dr. and Mrs. Rice are on furlough has taken me through deep waters -- it would be a more apt figure if I were to say that during this year I have been a fish out of water. I think I have some gift for teaching and for witnessing through personal contacts with students and others, but I have yet to discover any talent in myself for administrative and executive work, and it will be a great relief to me when the Rices return. We miss them greatly.

May you and Mrs. Speer find not only needed rest, but also great joy in new avenues of service during the years of retirement.

Sincerely,

Calvin H. Hazlett

47

J. WILBUR PRENTICE
ALLAHABAD CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
ALLAHABAD U. P., INDIA

03 August 23, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

This letter should reach you just about the time you relinquish your official duties in the Board rooms but I doubt if you get to read it until after you have left on a well-earned vacation as the number of letters you will receive on this occasion will be legion. But when you do come to this one in the huge stack Mrs. Prentice and I want you to know how much we have appreciated the privilege of being associated with you in a service which is its own reward. We know that this association will continue, only in an unofficial capacity, for the Christian brotherhood is not broken by retirements. We are wishing for you, in the years that lie ahead, that deep joy that comes from the sheer love of continued service and we know that your life together will still be a busy one, even in retirement. We are even daring to hope that you may favour us with a trip to India in the not distant future and we know that your stay here will bring inspiration that will put some of the petty things that disturb us at times in their proper places. We need our eyes lifted to the horizons again so that we can view things as a whole instead of concentrating on the details all the time.

Dr. Dodds, who takes over your work, is a very dear friend of ours as we spent our first winter in India with Le Roy and Ora and the children. We are asking God's richest blessings upon you as you leave and upon LeRoy and Ora as they follow in your footsteps.

Sincerely your friends,

Mary and Wilbur Prentice.

SEP 7 - '37

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

N. B. OGDEN

KASGANJ, U. P.
INDIA

03

August 5, '37

Dear Dr. Speer:-

I am wondering if this will reach you before you finally step out of 156 for the last time as our Secretary. I have had this envelope addressed and lying on my desk for many days trying to find a time when I could write without being hurried but such a time seems almost impossible to find. Even in the summer when it is hot and sometimes raining, I seem to be so busy when here alone that I can with difficulty keep in touch with my family of growing boys and girls and their faithful mother.

I have a fine group of small boys here on the compound in summer school just now. We have had a school of better spirit and quality this summer than any I can remember. The number has been small and that may account for what we have enjoyed. But the boys have really tried, they have been good so far as the discipline problem is concerned, and they have been happy and lively too. We hope many of them may have caught the ambition to go on further and make something of themselves.

I have been taking them each morning for a devotional story hour, trying to get vividly before them, in terms that they will understand and grasp, some of the truths. Today we talked of 'mihrbani', kindness. I began by asking them to tell me who is the kindest person they know or have known in their village. One very sweet and attractive boy named his father who has not been long dead. And as I recall, he was a very kind man. Another named a Lodha, another slightly higher caste man. One named the Chaukidar or village watchman as the kindest. But not one boy named his mother. I do not know why. Then I asked them how they would like that name. How they would like to be called for instance, Itwari, The Kindest Boy in his village. I then told them a short story of a mother who said her boy was a prince of a little fellow for he was always so kind and unselfish. This got across I think. Then the verse, Love is very patient, very kind. It is a fascinating study this, of how to get down to their level, get and hold their interest, awaken response and give them something to take away with them. I have now worked out quite a long series of such illustrated and object talks that are specially adapted for conditions here and function in their lives. Then the last thing in the afternoon I go out and have a play hour with them teaching them various games and exercises. After their evening food we have singing, stereopticon pictures and some phonograph pieces, native hymns. When one thinks of all the rich daily advantages our own children have at Woodstock, week after week all the year long, his heart rather aches for these underprivileged boys.

I wonder if we will have the joy and privilege of seeing you out here soon. I hope you will plan to come and give a winter at one of our big colleges, and in visiting some of our stations for special services. Then we will most certainly plan to have you preach at Kellogg Church in Landaur for a couple of months. Can not you and Mrs. Speer do this? I am sure nothing would be more acceptable to all out here.

I am just getting into, The Finality of Jesus. One feels rather tired and irked when he reads all the loose and unintelligent remarks that so many make about Jesus being only one among many. If people would only test Him by doing the three things demanded namely, repent, believe, and then obey Him, they could so easily come to know that He does something that no other can do, or does do, and they could know of the doctrine. But men want to come at Him through the intellect and He will not open up to them. Then they belittle Him by giving Him a small category of their own. Poor Gandhi in all his foolish remarks about the inability of the average person in India to understand the Christian message, is making this mistake. So he is constantly talking as a very wise man who is very unwise in fact and trying to undermine Christian propaganda. All the while men and women are going right on repenting, believing and then obeying, with the result that they are coming to know Him and fellowship with Him and go from insight to insight in the deep things. I shall take great pleasure in passing your book on to thoughtful readers in the hope that it will help many to a decision to do something about it. But would it not be great if we could have you visit our stations and give a series of five or six public lectures with a good translator, in each place.

You see, we simply can not make up our minds to the actuality of having you completely cut off from active participation in our work and we shall continue to explore likely avenues that will make possible your close contact with us in it. I hope you can have a good rest first, go fishing, lie around on the sand or on the grass, and let your wife read poetry to you, and a few things like that before you have to take up some other strenuous task. But if you are like Charles A Blanchard you will probably reply that you will get your rest when you get to heaven, this does not seem a very good place to rest in.

Let this bring to both you and Mrs. Speer our united and heartfelt love and gratitude and abounding good wishes as you lay down the immediate responsibility and give over the burden to others.
"-- the best is yet to be".

Very sincerely,

J. B. Ogden

Your load one has
to have a fun.

THE INDIA COUNCIL

OF THE PUNJAB, NORTH INDIA & WESTERN INDIA MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

"LOWRISTON",
DEHRA DUN, U. P.

Kolhapur, S.M.C., India,
August 21, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, U.S.A.

03

My dear Dr. Speer:

May I on behalf of the India Council and Mrs. Weir and myself send you our deep affection and loyalty on this your seventieth birthday. Our hearts are full of gratitude for the many years during which you have so wisely guided us through the various phases of our work in India. We remember especially your personal interest in and affection for each one of us, and the great inspiration your letters and our visits in your home and office have been to us. Ours is a rich heritage as we remember your leadership.

It does not seem possible that the time has come for your day by day direction of our work to cease. "156" will never be the same without you in that front corner office on the eighth floor. And yet we know that we have your constant prayer and continuous direction in the larger issues of our work; and upon that we shall greatly depend.

As you enter upon yet another phase of your life's work may you find in it ever increasing satisfaction and joy. Your life has meant and will ever mean so much to thousands in many lands. And we here want you to know again of what you mean to us as you turn another corner in life's progress.

With warmest personal regards,

Ever affectionately yours,

John B. Weir.

12 WEST 12TH STREET
NEW YORK

Dear Dr. Speer,

I am glad to see that
we are to keep your name and
Mrs. Speer's on our Church Roll.
The men feeling that you are
still of our Company is pleasant
— but beyond that I know that your
interest will be warm and hearty
even though you are absent in body.

About your place as Secretary
I feel quite sure that the Session
will wish you to stay. It has been
felt as a great honor to have you
known as an Elder of the First Church.
Not a bit of barren beside, either, for
we all think of you with great affec-
tion. I shall put it before the

Session this week and you will
no doubt be hearing from the Clerk
or from Roger Williams, very soon.

240 S. Oakland
Pasadena, Calif.
Sept. 5, 1937

15

Dear Dr. Speer.

It is with some
thing of a fellow feeling that
I write to congratulate you on
the attainment of your seventieth
birthday, for in just six months
I shall arrive at that mile post
too.

It is not easy to lay down
the special work which one
has been doing for nearly
half a century, but there are
always compensations, for then
time tables do not need to be
followed, but one can accomplish
many things laid aside for a
convenient time.

I am glad to have had these
many years of knowing you,
and of following afar the great
work which you have done.

May God bless you and
Mrs. Speer, and give you

many more years of service
in the upbuilding of His
Kingdom.

Sincerely your friend
Jean R. Lingle.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAROLD MCA. ROBINSON, GENERAL SECRETARY

920 WITHERSPOON BUILD
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

September 28, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Robert:-

Now that the early shouting has quieted down somewhat, I want to extend my warmest congratulations to you on the new opportunity that lies before you. I have been able to have fairly close fellowship with you in this matter as I have been kicked upstairs from the Y.M.C.A. to this Board of Christian Education.

You came into my life when I was still at McGill University and came down as a very raw student to Northfield. From that day to this I have never ceased to thank God for you on every remembrance of you. The service you did for me, and my particular group, has been multiplied many fold across the earth. It is an occasion for giving thanks to God and for taking courage for the future.

May you and Mrs. Speer have a chance now to consolidate the wonderful service you have already rendered in the lives of multitudes.

With every good wish and warmest personal regards,

I am,

Very cordially yours,

George Irving
George Irving

GI:h

240 S. Oakland Ave
Pasadena
California

My dear Dr. Speer: ⁶² Sept. 8th 1937

Allow me to congratulate you upon reaching three score and ten. I wish you a very Happy Birthday and many returns of the day. If you are leaving your office in the Board room the Board of Foreign Missions will not seem the same to me any more. You almost seem to me as the Board of Foreign Missions. You have always commanded my highest esteem & admiration. I shall never forget your kindest helpfulness when we were in trouble in 1904-1905. I do not think we disappointed you in the year following that. I saw your picture but had you speak recently on the Mission work in the different countries. At the conclusion of your address I wanted to go up and shake your hand but there was no hand there. I hope I may see you again some day. Why not come to California when you retire? I presume you heard of my brother's sudden death on ~~Friday~~ ^{Friday} of this year. I am very glad we had those 75 days together ^{in Europe} two years ago. His wife & daughter are all now in New York City. I enclose a clipping. Happy Birthday to you.

Yours most sincerely
W. H. Lingle

The Abbey Church

[Evangelical and Reformed]

Huntingdon, Penna.

130

September 27, 1937

My dear Doctor Speer:

The announcement that you are about to retire from your official capacity as Secretary of the Foreign Board prompts me to hasten a word of appreciation, of congratulation and of Christian good will. Since student days and over all the years your voice and pen have been inspirations of unusual power in my life. I have read your books (and recommended them!), followed your travels, and found strength in your example. Some thirteen years in Huntingdon — fast flowing and intensely interesting years — has caused my love for the community to gather and grow. Perhaps I love the little city too well; that, at least, is what my friends tell me when they think I should be in some larger center; but, be that as it may, there has been no void in my life, either intellectually or spiritually, and I can well understand both your love for the home community and its love for you. Wherefore, I pray that the afternoon of life may be fragrant and gracious, and that you will be permitted to do the things which, under the pressure of your position, you no doubt wanted to do but found impossible. To you belong the prophets peace and the prophet's reward.

I am sending to your good sister a copy of the current issue of The Christian Century which contains the fitting tribute of Rev. Frank Fitt.

I have just received a letter from my friend, Dr. John S. Whale, President of Cheshunt College, Cambridge. He tells me that the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education will have him over for conferences next June and July. I do hope that one of these conferences can be held here in Huntingdon. With the cooperation of Huntingdon Presbytery, Juniata Classis and Juniata College we could arrange a fine conference on Christian doctrine. Could you speak a word to some member of the Board? Dr. Whale, with whom I attended Mansfield College Oxford, in 1923, is a great teacher and preacher and I am anxious that the ministers of central Pennsylvania should hear and know him.

Thanking you in advance, and wishing you every blessing, I beg to remain, Ever faithfully yours,

Spert Dillebeck

4719 Cedar Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sept. 8th.

or,

Dear D^r Spear,

I see by the N. Y. Times
that your Seventieth birthday falls
on Friday, & I feel I must write
a few lines of greeting to you.

My earnest prayer for you is Numbers
6th - 24th to 26th. I know of nothing better. —

It is sad to think of your leaving
the Board where you have worked
so long & so faithfully, but I know

you will not be idle in the remaining
years of your life.

To us it has meant so much having
~~your~~ loving care & sympathy, through
the many years of our Missionary
Career. We always ~~felt~~ we had
a friend at Court, who would
help us in all our problems.

May these Sunset years bring
to you greater & fuller joy than
the years that have gone before.

With warmest love,

Yours very sincerely,

A. J. Forman.

156 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

Dr
September 9

My dear Dr. Speer,

It is a pleasure to greet you and to wish for you a continued life full of the richness and abundance which have marked the preceding years.

When I came to New York it was with deep

regret that I learned
of your retirement but
I can only be thankful
for the privilege which
has been mine in the
even limited association
with you this past year.
You have been a constant
inspiration to me —
your keen mind, ready

wit and deep consecration
to Christ have left
their mark upon me.

My very best wishes
go with you.

Most sincerely

Mary Turner

September 9th.

62
1

My dear Dr. Speer,

When I returned from my vacation on Tuesday, I learned with surprise that you had already left the offices. I had thought you would be here until tomorrow, your birthday, or I should never have gone away without wishing you good-bye, God-speed, and a great many happy returns. Therefore these wishes for your happiness must go to you by mail, but they are none the less hearty. It would be difficult to express personally or by letter all that is in our hearts for you, as you enter upon this period of merited freedom from office details. We know these will be just as busy years, but we hope they will be even happier than those that have gone by, as you follow your own desires in the planning of your tasks, in the lovely Connecticut hills.

I am glad it was given me to be here while you were still in the offices, and to know you as something more than a name. There is no need for me to tell you that through watching you and listen-

ing to your good words during these five years, something richer has been added to my life, for you know that this would be true of all of us here, and we can only be glad that we were among those whose lives have been touched by yours.

Mr. Clissold joins with me in wishing for you and Mrs. Speer many years of blessed fellowship with each other and with God.

Very sincerely,

Betha J. Clissold

Mrs. E. J. Clissold

9031 Ft. Hamilton Pkway
Brooklyn, N.Y.

5 Hamilton Apts
Carlisle, Pa.

03

Sep. 7, 1937.

Dear Dr. Speer,

Even tho I have not had the privilege of belonging to the Punjab mission for several years, I still feel I belong, & I know the members of the Board of the mission are still my friends, so I want to share in the congratulations and good wishes to you for Friday, when you

will have reached your "three score years and ten," and wish you many more years of service for the master.

It is a time of sadness and a time of gladness -- sadness that you are no longer the beloved secretary for the India missions, but gladness that for so many years it has been the privilege of the missionaries to receive help and inspiration from you, and I know that help will continue

— many will be able to express their appreciation much better than I can, but no one is more appreciative, and I pray for our Father's richest blessing on you and yours.

Sincerely yours,
Ananda Kerr.

1036 EAST HOWARD STREET
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Sept. 5th 1937

03

Dear Dr. Spurr:-

May I join with the many other
fellow workers in noting your completion of
"active services"? It does, indeed, end a period
of service, but by no means brings "inactivity".
He, who walk with our Saviour, continues our
witness and good works until He will deem
it time for us to join in His service in the
better land.

We are witnessing a great "set back" to the
work in China, but, as Dr. Fenn has written, it
more likely ^{may} prove a greater "set forward" to the
Christian movement, as did the Boxer troubles
of 1900. We shall hope and pray that that
will be the result.

(2)

1036 EAST HOWARD STREET
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

The China folks living in this region have had three large gatherings this summer: 1st To greet Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Myers when on their way to China; 2^d To greet Rev. & Mrs. Paul Lindholm on arrival from China; 3rd to greet Dr. & Mrs. R. C. Wells, (who have been called back to New York) & I should not omit a 4th, last week, to greet Rev. & Mrs. J. W. Mitchell, of Hunan, on their arrival on furlough & from 30 to 50 come, and we greatly enjoy these opportunities for fellowship &

Mrs. Douglass joins us in kindest greetings to you and to Mrs. Spru &

Cordially

C. W. Douglass.

Beckley W. Va.
or
Sept 8, 1937.

My dear Dr. Speer.

We are happy to be among the many friends who will be offering you congratulations on Friday. Thinking back over the years one is filled with a spirit of thanksgiving for the great service you have been privileged to give the cause of Christ - in foreign lands. We know, too, at how great a personal cost. But today we rejoice with you, and are happy to recall the years when we were in the Western India Mission, and the happy associations connected with our secretary. It will be forty one years next month since Dr. Wilson and I began our long

journey to India, and a little more
than twice since we returned the
last time. But our hearts are out
there still in large part, and now
it is our privilege to help by prayer.

7
The prospect for many more years of
happy service for you -

Sincerely yours

Ms. A. S. W.

Engelie Mad Wilson.

Dr Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York ⁶²

Dear Doctor Speer - This is just
to congratulate you on
your birthday anniversary
& wish you another year
full of joy & blessing ^{& Mrs.}
vice. We are thankful for the
many wonderful years you
have had with our Board &
beel sure the future will hold
much opportunity to continue your
helpfulness there.

Just now our hearts are
full of the dreadful situation
in China as we pray for
our friends all the work
there. Our daughter Katherine
taught in the Yurca School

in Peiping for about eighteen months, & then went on to visit India, see our old home in Kodoli etc. She is teaching now in the Esther Patton School in Kolaba. Also taught in the School at Kodai Kanal for first part of the year.

I wonder if you remember your motorcycle ride around Kodai & the view of the plains which you said reminded you of scenes in the Andes.

Well, here's wishing you the best of everything.

Sincerely

Alfred Wilson

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, New York

MRS. JAMES DUGUID, JR.
Field Secretary

02

Sept 6. 1937.

My dear Dr. Speer,

It is usually a joy to write birthday greetings to friends, but it is hard for us of the "156" family to have your Birthday come this year

For me, it's like the old Scotch song "You tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low", or lowly road of the usual (good) service, but without the sagacious guidance and spiritual helpfulness you have always so generously given.

But it is your high road

THE BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL, INC.
BIRMINGHAM, PENNSYLVANIA

September 9, 1937

Ag

Dear Dr. Speer:

Happy birthday! Whatever maybe the nature of its celebration, I trust that there may be in and through it all a note of joy. We wished that you might have been with us at Poughkeepsie, for we missed you very much. The memory of our conferences at Lakeville are evergreen. But we thanked God for you and vowed again to be worthy of the privilege of fellowship in service with you which has been ours.

For myself, I can say, like Paul, that "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you". In the six years since Lakeville of 1931 I have come to admire and respect you very much and to love you too. My sense of unworthiness has been acute as I have, from time to time,

RIVERDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RIVERDALE AVENUE AND 247TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

538

GEORGE M. DUFF,
MINISTER.

September 29, 1937.

Dear Dr. Sifer:

An acknowledgment at Mt. Holyoke
kept me from the dinner in your honor
last Monday night. I'm sorry to be absent.
May I send my best wishes for these years before

you and the continued presence of your
great ministry.

Sincerely yours,

Howard



02

Atseep Lake, Mich.

Sept. 7, '37-

Our very dear Dr. Speer -

This is just a little note to send you our deepest love and best wishes for your birthday. May it be a day of the greatest joy - in the knowledge of the love and esteem and appreciation and loyalty of hosts of friends, but especially of your big devoted Missionary

PS
Dear love to Mrs. Speers too - info otherwise in all our thoughts and great wishes.

and help during the years that have gone, but we also do not feel that you are leaving us — rather that you are passing on your mantle to younger shoulders (especially the mantle of the details of office work), in order that you may be free to continue even greater service for our common Lord and Master.

How we wish we might hope to have you, ^{and Mrs. Spear} with us in India next year! As the Cook lecturer, or for some months with us in the College — how much it would mean to our Mission and our Indian people, and to all of us personally! We shall hope to see you in New York before we sail (Nov. 18th), and leave again with your "blessing"; and have a little chance to talk over these and other hopes + possibilities.

I have been having a very happy ^{summer} here with my parents and brother's families — and Herbert has come and gone too, and shared in the happy visits. He is busy with the Centennial Celebration in the Ohio and Michigan Churches and Presbyteries especially, at present. I return to

Worship with my parents to the end of this week. Father and Mother send their most heartfelt good wishes to you, and their love — and of course — Harold — as always included — very affectionately yours, Mary Emory Rice.

and help during the years that have gone, but we also do not feel that you are leaving us — rather that you are passing on your mantle to younger shoulders (especially the mantle of the details of office work), in order that you may be free to continue even greater service for our common Lord and Master.

How we wish we might hope to have you ^{and Mrs. Spear} with us in India next year! As the Cook lecturer, in for some months with us in the College — how much it would mean to our Mission and our Indian people, and to all of us personally! We shall hope to see you in New York City we said (Nov. 18th), and leave again with your "blessing", and have a little chance to talk over there and other hopes & possibilities.

I have been having a very happy summer here with my parents and brother's families — and Herbert has come and gone too, and shared in the happy visits. He is busy with the Centennial celebration in the Ohio and Michigan churches and Presbyteries especially, at present. I return to

Worster with my parents the end of this week. Father and Mother send their most heartfelt good wishes too, and their love — and of course Herbert is also included — very affectionately yours, Mary Compton Rice.



02

Atsasp Lake, Mich.

Sept. 7, '37-

Our very dear Dr. Speer—

This is just a little note to send you our deepest love and best wishes for your birthday.

May it be a day of the greatest joy—in the knowledge of the love and esteem and appreciation and loyalty of hords of friends, but especially of your big devoted Missionary

P.S.

Dear love to Mrs. Speer too—who shares in all our thought and best wishes.

Almora
Hunson Hills,
India.
Sept. 1. 1937

624

Dear Mr. Spur,

This is just a few lines to congratulate you on the completion of your years of service with the Board, and to tell you how very much we are going to miss you. I treasure the personal letters I have received from you, in times of joy and sorrow. It is wonderful to me to think what a personal friend you have been, with your great flock, and the multitude of responsibilities upon you. And I know many others are feeling the same way.

Your Missin letters, too, have been so full of cheer and encouragement. I shall never forget the thrill and comfort your assurance conveyed, following so quickly upon the Fact Finders' report. We had to

admit there was great weakness in our work, and that report left me with a feeling of futility. Your expression of the Board's confidence, put new heart into us, and helped us to go forward with new determination, to seek consecration and guidance and power from the Holy Spirit.

Our love and sympathy have been with you, too, in the brunt of criticism you have borne on behalf of the Board and Missions, and in the uncalled for attacks on yourself.

Well, it is going to be nice to think of you on that farm, with leisure to dig potatoes, and raise strawberries, and write some more books! That will be one thing from your pen, I trust, we can always enjoy!

We remember, too, how kind Mrs. Spur has been, and the happy afternoons so many have enjoyed at your beautiful home at Englewood.

My husband joins me in affectionate greetings to you both.

Very sincerely yours,
Carrie H. Gould.

Tabriz Iran
Sept 10th

My dear Dr Spur,

On this occasion of your birthday there will be hundreds of letters and telegrams and felicitations. This my letter will reach you much later of course, but it is just to tell you that I've been thinking of you today - and several of us here, Dr. Prechard, Miss Barber and others have been speaking of you.

This journey up from Hamadan to Tabriz was so full of memories to all three of us who made this trip day before yesterday,

Miss Lammie Dr Packard and myself. How many many times a scene along the road would recall that arduous journey you and Mr Carter made with them up from Kasvin. How easily travel has become now in Iran. Two days comfortable riding in a new Hudson Turbine as against 18 days in the old carriages as Bernice and I first made it.

But along the road as we would pass villagers at their work or in their squalid treeless hovels I can't see much change. They seem

more poverty stricken than
ever and just as ignorant.
It is only in the larger
towns that one sees signs
of real material progress.

I am up here in Tabriz
for as few days as possible,
to gather up some of our
household effects. Then I am
starting on for Meshed - where
Dr. Kibbe is waiting to be relieved,
to go to Reht.

This news of Miss Mel
Nelsons engagement - comes
as a great surprise, and as
a blow to our nursing projects
here. It is becoming increasingly
difficult to take care of this
side of the medical work.

03

Dear Dr. Speer.

It doesn't seem
right not to find you in
the corner room on the eighth
floor of 156 Fifth Avenue!
If a change had to come
it is well that so worthy a
successor as LeRoy Dodds
has been found — but it
is a disappointment ~~would not~~
to find you there, for we

had understood that your retirement was not to take place until mid-September.

Failing to find you there our next thought was to call on you on your birthday - but the fact that you are eighty-five miles distant has made that impractical. And we must therefore be content with this inadequate medium for the expression, abounding of our sense of loss and

strangeness that you are
no longer our "chief"; and of
our joy that this span of
seventy years has left us
bore a record of achieve-
ment in the service of
your Master and of the
men He has loved.

Incidentally, you may
or may not hear from Dr.
Datta at this time —
but I cannot close without
telling you of the admiration

you have won from him,
who is generally so reluctant
to accord it to any one.
And curiously enough, ~~it~~ it
is of the gardeners, and
farmers, and lovers of the
hills and trees and the
broad acres that he so
often speaks.

Mr. Wilson, our son
Tom — ten years old next
Monday — and I arrived
by the S.S. Scythia on Tues.

day - We greeted by our
two daughters, Betty, just
graduated from College
and Peggy, about to enter
her Senior year in Wooster.
Rather reluctantly we
left our boy David -
at his request - in India
to finish High School at
Woodstock with his Class.
He is to follow in January,
perhaps to enter College
in the Second Semester.

My wife joins me in
the wish and prayer that
you may be given many
years of service — most
free, and no less effective
— to the Cause to which
you have devoted the
years of unwearied strength

Yours sincerely
Ross Wilson

Parkside Hotel
18 Gramercy Park,
New York City
September 10, 1937

It makes us all glad to think
of the joy of the birthday this
Friday - How fine that your
daughter will be home from
yarning to share in the day
first hand.

Greetings and best wishes
Margaretta Craig.

For Dearest Mds 12

Received at

1937 OCT 5 AM 3 11

GB43 82 NL 1 EXTRA=PR PORTROYAL PENN 4

DR ROBERT E SPEER =

156 FIFTH AVE NYK=

Ge

THE PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON IN SESSION AT PORTROYAL PA TO
OBSERVE FOREIGN MISSION CENTENNIAL EXTEND TO YOU GREETINGS AS
WE GATHER TO THANK GOD FOR HIS GUIDANCE DURING THE ONE HUNDRED
YEARS WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT YOUR LIFE HAS MADE MUCH
OF THIS WORK POSSIBLE WE ARE PRAISING GOD THIS DAY FOR WHAT
YOUR LIFE MEANS TO OUR BOARD AND CHURCH MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS
YOU IN THE YEARS AHEAD REGRET YOU COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WITH US=
J MAURICE LEISTER MODERATOR PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON.

603 Albany Street
Peoria, Illinois
October 2, 1937.

Mr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Ge

Dear Mr. Speer:-

At the fall meeting ~~of the Presbytery~~ of the Presbytery of Peoria, meeting
in the First Church of Peoria, Illinois, the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Missions
was directed to write you a letter conveying to you at this time the congratulations and
the very best wishes of our Presbytery on the anniversary occasion of your seventieth
birthday. We are also reminded that you are retiring from active service as Senior Secre-
tary of the Board of Foreign Missions

We are hoping that in the good providence of God your life may be spared for many more
years. We appreciate the faithful, efficient and wholehearted service you have rendered to
God through our beloved Church. We pray God's richest blessing upon you and hope at some
time to ~~have~~ have you with us again and if not that privilege we trust we may hear from
you through your articles in the press and also trust you may write some more good books
for us.

Very sincerely yours,

Walter V. McAloo.

Received at

1937 OCT 5 AM 3 11

GB43 82 NL 1 EXTRA=PR PORTROYAL PENN 4

DR ROBERT E SPEER =

156 FIFTH AVE NYK=

OK

THE PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON IN SESSION AT PORTROYAL PA TO
OBSERVE FOREIGN MISSION CENTENNIAL EXTEND TO YOU GREETINGS AS
WE GATHER TO THANK GOD FOR HIS GUIDANCE DURING THE ONE HUNDRED
YEARS WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT YOUR LIFE HAS MADE MUCH
OF THIS WORK POSSIBLE WE ARE PRAISING GOD THIS DAY FOR WHAT
YOUR LIFE MEANS TO OUR BOARD AND CHURCH MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS
YOU IN THE YEARS AHEAD REGRET YOU COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WITH US=
J MAURICE LEISTER MODERATOR PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON.

603 Albany Street
Peoria, Illinois
October 2, 1937.

Mr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.
Dear Mr. Speer:-

OK

At the fall meeting ~~of the Presbytery~~ of the Presbytery of Peoria, meeting
in the First Church of Peoria, Illinois, the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Missions
was directed to write you a letter conveying to you at this time the congratulations and
the very best wishes of our Presbytery on the anniversary occasion of your seventieth
birthday. We are also reminded that you are retiring from active service as Senior Secre-
tary of the Board of Foreign Missions

We are hoping that in the good providence of God your life may be spared for many more
years. We appreciate the faithful, efficient and wholehearted service you have rendered to
God through our beloved Church. We pray God's richest blessing upon you and hope at some
time to ~~hear~~ have you with us again and if not that privilege we trust we may hear from
you through your articles in the press and also trust you may write some more good books
for us.

Very sincerely yours,

Walter V. M. Adoo.

HUGH BROWER
STATED CLERK AND TREASURER

Presbytery of Iowa

502 WEST CARPENTER STREET
FAIRFIELD, IOWA

October 2, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

H

Dear Dr. Speer:

Your brethren of the Presbytery of Iowa, in their fall meeting at Oakland Church instructed me, as Stated Clerk, to send you cordial greetings, with their appreciative recognition of your many years of service to the blessed foreign mission activities of our church, and to express their hope that you may be spared many years to assist in the work.

Yours most cordially,

Hugh Brower
Stated Clerk

MEMORANDUM September 22nd, 1937.

FROM Miss Margaret E. Hodge

TO Dr. Robert E. Speer

Attached is a quotation from a letter from Mrs. Vogt which came on the twentieth. I am sure you will appreciate it.

What a delightful time we did have Monday evening. It will live in the memory of all of us who were there.

Extracts of a letter to Miss Hodge from Mrs. Leo J. Vogt, dated September 18th, 1937.

"How I wish I might be with you on Monday - enjoying the fellowship, discussing the plans, and honoring Dr. Speer. I believe I would prefer to be with you at this meeting rather than in November but my duties here are too pressing for me to leave. - - -

"I enjoy having 'in print' the speech which you made at General Assembly introducing Dr. Speer. I have many lovely things 'in print' but that and Dr. Speer's address are among the loveliest. Will you kindly give my greetings to Dr. Speer and tell him how sincerely I regret that I can not be a part of the group which honors him on Monday evening. Words fail me as I try to think of things to say concerning Dr. Speer and his wonderful years of service."

DONALD W. CARRUTHERS
PRESBYTERIAN PASTOR TO STUDENTS
AT
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE
STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

September 29, 1937

97
—

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Lakeville, Connecticut

My dear Dr. Speer:

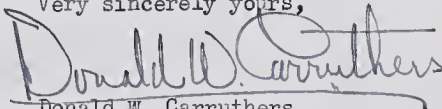
I have thought of you repeatedly since I saw the clipping in the "New York Times" concerning your seventieth birthday.

In the "Christian Century" today I saw the splendid tribute paid to your Christian influence by Frank Fitt. Your many friends rejoice with you in this happy occasion.

It must be a joy to have your daughter Margaret back from China. Please remember me to her. My sister, Mrs. Gordon Poteat returned recently on the Queen Mary via Europe after more than twenty years missionary service in China.

With kindest good wishes

Very sincerely yours,


Donald W. Carruthers

DWC:EC

The Presbytery of Fort Dodge

Organized 1856

REV. E. L. MAROUSEK, D.D.

Stated Clerk and Treasurer

Jefferson, Iowa

OC

October 1, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

The eighty-first stated fall meeting of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge in Estherville, Iowa adopted a resolution instructing the Stated Clerk to write a letter to you, expressing the appreciation of the Presbytery your long service as Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions; of your Christian statesmanship which has profoundly affected the policies of our own and other denominations; and wishing you joy, peace and continued blessings as you enter upon your retirement.

I have the honor to transmit this action to you.

Sincerely yours,

E. L. Marousek

Purpose of the League: To break down racial, social, economic and general class prejudice and hatred, which separate men and women of good will, through a better understanding of their interdependence.

The Good Neighbor League, Inc.

Executive Headquarters
295 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK
Telephone CAledonia 5-9181

WALTER A. JONI
President
CHARLES STELZLE
Executive Director

Executive Board

COL. PATRICK H. CALLAHAN
President, Louisville Varnish Co.

DR. RUSSELL J. CLINCHY
Pastor, Mount Pleasant Congregational Church, Washington, D. C.

DR. GEORGE W. COLEMAN
Founder and Director, Ford Hall Forum, Boston

WALKER T. DICKERSON
President, Walker T. Dickerson Co., Columbus

CHARLES EDISON
President, Thomas A. Edison Industries

CLIFFORD V. GREGORY
Editor, The Prairie Farmer

GEORGE M. HARRISON
President, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks

MISS FANNIE HURST

DR. JOHN A. LAPP
Former President, National Conference of Social Work

MORRIS S. LAZARON
Rabbi, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

DR. HENRY G. LEACH
Editor, The Forum Magazine

CHESTER McCALL
Executive Vice President, United States Advertising Corp.

GEORGE FORT MILTON
Publisher, The Chattanooga News

MAJ. GEN. JOHN P. O'RYAN

DR. GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY

MRS. PERCY V. PENNYBACKER
Former President, General Federation of Women's Clubs

REVERDY C. RANSOM
Bishop, A.M.E. Church

L. S. ROWE
Director General, Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.

ESTELLE M. STERNBERGER
Executive Director, World Peaceways

DR. WILLIS A. SUTTON
Superintendent of Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

MISS LILLIAN D. WALD
President, Visiting Nurse Service, New York

57

October 5, 1937

Dr Robert E Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

My dear Robert:

I want to join those who are congratulating you upon your seventieth birthday. What a record and what a wonderful piece of work you have done, not only for the Presbyterian Church, but for Christendom throughout the world.

I remember the first time I heard you speak. It was in Minneapolis where I began my ministry. This was about forty years ago. I remember very distinctly the keenness of your analysis and the wonderful impression you made upon your audience.

I remember, too, a meeting of the Home Board Secretaries held about ten years ago over which you presided. I thought then, and I later said to a number of audiences, that the interpretation of American affairs was more intelligently and sympathetically presented by you than it was by any of the men who were at the head of our great Home Mission Boards. I was grateful to you at that time for the picture you gave us regarding American problems.

There are many other things that I might say to you which would indicate my great respect and admiration for you. I know that you will still be doing a great piece of work for the Church and for the world through what you will write and whatever else you may do during coming years. With very best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,



CHARLES STELZLE
Executive Director

CS:G

Sept 13 11 30.37

81

or Iowa City, Ia
Sept 30.37

Rev Robert E. Speer

My dear friend: When I met you for a few minutes on June 11 I didn't have time to say what it was in my heart to say on your coming retirement. My own retirement was so imminent I guess.

When I joined up with the Board in 1902 you were already there and Dr. Brown and Dr. Halsley and White et al.

When I came to meet the Board I had with me my bride of a few months now gone to be with her Saviors have so many of the missionaries and Board members. There is scarcely a missionary in him who was there in those days.

And now you have severed your official connection with the Board. But you are in good health, "your bow abideth in strength" May this autumn time be one of harvest. With me, with impaired speech I cannot do much but I can and do thank God that my life has touched yours so that I can call you friend. Mrs. MLD has stayed with the Speers

until now. She is probably on the sea
and due in Los Angeles Nov 1st

We have each of us had deep grief during
the past few years - the why we dont yet
know. But we have been sustained
because everlasting arms have been
underneath us.

May God give you real joy and peace
in full measure in this closing period
of your life. My best love to Mrs. J. also.

Yours in the best of bonds.

Edwin B. M. Daniel

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. SPEER

By WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKES

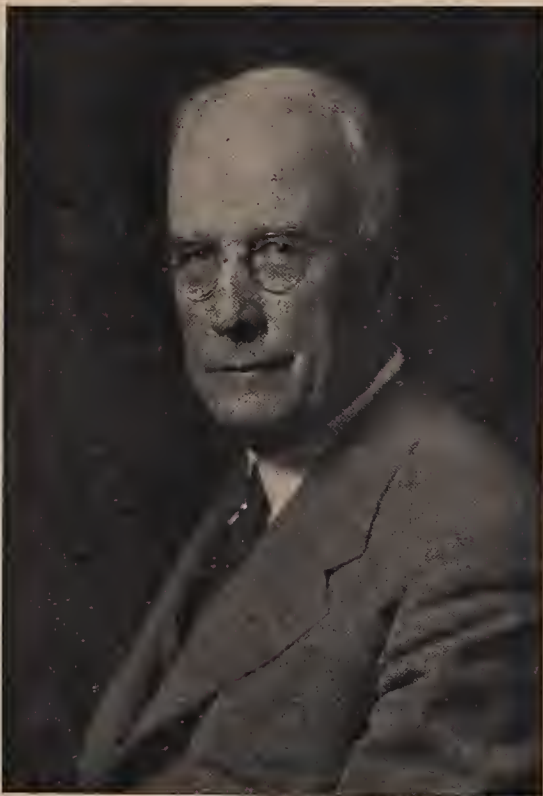
Some day the biography of Robert E. Speer will be written, one might well hope his autobiography. It may be that his humility will prevent him from taking up the pen to chronicle his own career. It is also likely that few, if any, persons would be competent to do justice to his notable and noble life, as it has been lived in the midst of us now these seventy years. The sense of privilege that possesses the Moderator as he responds to the invitation of the Editor to pen a brief tribute to Dr. Speer for the columns of THE PRESBYTERIAN TRIBUNE, is almost swallowed up by inherent impossibilities. Who among us can begin to appraise and to characterize the life and service of this prince in Israel? What a man! Whether it be his wide ranging mind centered, none the less, in a single pursuit, his commanding personality, his mastery and leadership of the missionary cause over half a century, his lofty place in the Councils of the Church of Christ, or, best of all, his glorious Christian character — in each of these areas of Dr. Speer's life there is a wealth of biographical resource.

His Christian integrity stands out preeminent among his other qualities. No other Christian in our generation, certainly none within the pale of the Presbyterian Church,

looms up so large as a tower of moral and spiritual strength as does Dr. Speer. His life, which is an open book among us, has been builded upon the immortal Rock. There is something truly majestic in the solidity of his character. For half a century and more men have trusted him and have not found him wanting. He is a twentieth century Christian stalwart, a giant tree in the forest with his roots deep down, and like the One whom he has so devotedly served he has become a Rock in a weary land to multitudes of wayfaring souls.

The exacting honesty of Dr. Speer's mental processes is both a rebuke and an inspiration to those whose thinking has been all too easy-going. The epithets "shallow"

and "shifty" or even "clever" may never be justly applied to him. Those who know him best are most convincing in their testimony as to his unflinching espousal of truth. How many times a General Assembly has waited to hear what Dr. Speer would have to say, and when it heard, it was satisfied to heed!



ROBERT E. SPEER

Dr. Speer's industry is nothing less than prodigious and his energy indefatigable. The voluminous correspondence he has carried on, all these years, with the far-flung missionary force of the Church, and with multitudes of persons in the home land, as well as with Christian leaders around the world, has required a remarkable complex of qualities—insight into human nature, wide-ranging special interests, mastery of administrative fidelity, considerateness of others and an unwearied spirit. No other leader in the Christian Church of our day has wrought himself, selflessly at that, more inextricably into the fabric of our Christian thought and enterprise than he.

The output of Dr. Speer's pen has already reached large proportions. We are not at all amazed to learn that he has a series of books in the back of his mind, ready to be written, over the next fifteen or twenty years. Once again, may his autobiography crown his career!

Naturally the tone of all his writing is keyed to his missionary interest and passion. He finds grist for his missionary mill in many harvest fields. He is always putting in the sickle of voluminous although deliberately selected reading, and he goes everywhere garnering sheaves for the world-wide triumph of Christ and his Church.

Those who have only come into contact with Dr. Speer as listeners to his marvelous platform addresses, while they may have felt the power of his mind at its best, have not had the privilege, as some of us have enjoyed, of knowing him in the intimacies of the Christian enterprise of which he has been such a noble exponent. In the coun-

cils of the Church, whether in the Board of Foreign Missions, or in the cooperating activities of all the Boards, he has a type of masterfulness that is not too common. He is able to espouse a point of view with clarity and conviction, and when by a vote, his views are not approved, he has manifested such charity of spirit and such human understanding that it is impossible for any right-minded man to differ from him except in love. This particular point may be pertinently illustrated by the position he has held as senior secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. He has never been willing to assume the title of General Secretary and, in the opinion of the writer, for three reasons. One his dislike of anything that suggests personal prestige and power. Another his conviction that all of his colleagues should have a voice in determining the policies of the enterprise to which, not less than he, they are freely giving their lives. Now and then this policy has led him to face a majority vote on the part of the Foreign Board Staff against his point of view—a situation which he has always met with patience and forbearance. The third reason for his refusal to be the titular General Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, has been his unwillingness to become involved in the detailed activities of his colleagues. This does not mean a lack of sympathy or interest. It simply has not been within the range of his desire or his sense of duty to deal with his colleagues as though they were under any direction from him. "Here is your desk! Here is your task! Work in your own best way," he would say in substance. At the same time, Dr. Speer was the General Secretary de facto, and now that his presence is beginning to be missed from the administrative councils of the Board, the reality of his dominating leadership is appearing with increasing vividness. To sum up the items of his administrative activities in the affairs of the Board and of the Church, one may safely say that the unbroken continuity of his Christian service for a whole generation and more, has proven him to be the most trustworthy and competent leader the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America has had in our day and generation.

With all of the basic characteristics which have given him an outstanding and secure position in the Christian world, Dr. Speer has also possessed a round of other qualities, which by their nature contribute to the totality of his influence. Among his intimates his keen sense of humor and his ability to unbend and to play are well

known. The annual staff dinner of the Foreign Board has usually witnessed Dr. Speer in some dramatic and humorous role that would have given delight to all who love clean and wholesome fun. Then, too, his friendliness of spirit, not effusive or mechanically purveyed, has been in frequent evidence, sometimes beneath the surface, it is true. His spirit of give and take, his essential modesty (at the General Assembly he may usually be found in some back seat in the gallery, or, if his duties do not require him to be present at the sessions of the Assembly, in his room writing a magazine article or reading some significant book), his courage in espousing causes that have become the target for abusive criticism, if he believed them at heart to be sound and true, his heroic steadfastness under an avalanche of sorrow and grief that would have utterly crushed an ordinary soul, his joyous and even serene and always deeply mystical consciousness of the reality of Christ—these are some of the marks of the Lord Jesus that we, who know him, have found upon the soul of Robert E. Speer.

When one calls the roll of the worthies who have served our Church these last decades, he will not find one who passed from a brilliant youth through a noble manhood and into a fruitful age with greater grace than that which is evidenced by the life of Dr. Speer. His three score years and ten give evidence of neither a disintegrating personality nor a hard and unyielding spirit. The core of his integrity abides like granite but his spirit has mellowed. "Gainst storm and wind and tide" he has "wrestled on towards heaven." Through the welter of strife and sometimes with the barbed arrows of unjust criticism ranking in his own bosom he has steadfastly grown in knowledge and grace. His warm evangelical faith, rock-ribbed in its theological bases, was never more in evidence than now. For one to profess to find in his recent volume "The Meaning of Christ to Me" signs of a waning evangelical conviction is only the disclosure of a bias that would be ludicrous if it were not so tragic.

Here he stands, to go in and out among us, please God, for years to come, four square to all the winds, monumental mind, conscience like a razor blade, lover of truth and beauty, lover of men for Christ's sake, humble and bold, a modern incarnation of the spirit of the galaxy of "Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs" to whom "to live is Christ" and to whom to die with so glorious a harvest on the other side, will be deathless gain.

一電
九話
七東
九局

INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING PRACTICE
50 KU LOU HSI, PEIPING, CHINA
TELEPHONE 1979 E. O.

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樓

華北工程學校

Aug. 30 - 1937

Dear Dr. Spar:

9

As we remembered the Board in our family prayers this morning, I was particularly reminded of the near approach of the loss to all of us missionaries and your release from the arduous responsibilities which you have borne so many years at #156.

I shall not be so foolish as to try to tell you in any detail how much of inspiration you have been to me, for it would be but a duplication of what hundreds of others could say with equal truth and sincerity. But may I remind you of one or two things which you would not remember, which decades ago insured for you a warm place in my heart.

When you were a Student Volunteer Secretary and I an undergraduate we sat one evening on the shore at Lake Geneva, and you answered my excuses - family and architectural - for not volunteering by pointing out the openings for manual training and similar technical occupations on the foreign field. I was unconvinced at the time but could not escape the appeal, and years later in Summit said to Mrs. Gunn as we were talking over the claim upon us of Foreign Missions, - "After all, we have never given God a chance, through the Board, by saying that we were willing"; and we agreed then to take up with you the question of whether

there was a place for us in South America. You said "no," but suggested the Philippines. In between were the delightful and constantly suggestive association of the Daymen's Missionary Movement.

It would be difficult to think of your turning over your portfolios to some one else if I were not within three years of retirement myself. Sam Dean talks as though I could keep right on indefinitely, but he has not learned that "70" is a measure of age, - not of health.

I am wondering what the effect of this "Sino-Japanese incident" will be upon Miss Margaret's return. I have not seen Dr. Stuart but I hear he is very much discouraged: He told me last May that he had looked for something of this kind some years ago, but thought there was no further danger of it. Yenching is the only University in Peiping, I believe, which plans to open its doors, although I have not been told specifically of Pita. Our students are scattered in Shantung but we are assuming that some will detour back through Chefoo, and five new men have just applied for admission. So we are planning to keep right on until the Lord shows us a better plan, and trust him to send us the necessary work (architectural) to support the school. At present there is none in sight.

With regards to the other friends at #156,
Affectionately - Chas. A. Gunn

97

October 3. 1937

1383 BRUSH HILL ROAD
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

my dear Dr Sheer.

Knowing that Benz recently
fear of age you are retiring from
the Post that you have held with
such consecration and ability for
many years I am moved to write
you this short note.

You would not think that
ever since I have known you, you
have been to me a source of in-
piration and an example: your
wisdom, your voice, your message
have moved me when I have
seen or heard you, all too seldom.

I am sure that your service,
retired just a year ago. Let me as an
elder say that resting confidently
in the spirit and ability of the younger
generation I leave the responsibility with
them: I enjoy the friendship of the
younger men and women and wish
but a bit less there by personal advice or
error: I try to make the apostles message
mine "little children, love one another":
and in these simple ways my life is happy:
may yours be the same! Yours sincerely
William Lawrence

Rev Dr Robert S. Sheer n. H.



A BORD S.S. Providence

LE 16th September, 1937.

MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES

Dear Dr. Speer,

It was a joy to see you again before leaving America on what I suppose is my last term of service in Iran. One reason I was willing to come home this year instead of remaining on the field an extra year was to get in my last furlough before your retirement. And I am glad to be off again while you were still at 156.

I am unable to tell you what it has meant to me that during the rather long period that I have been a missionary of the Presbyterian Church you have been the secretary for our mission. I have been thinking over again some of the incidents that have taken place since the first interview I had with you thirty-nine years ago. Perhaps none have had a more prominent place in my thought than that first interview. It was at Auburn Seminary. My class-mate, George Stone who soon afterward died at Muscat, and I came to see you together. He was under appointment to Muscat. I was planning to remain a year in America before going to the Foreign Field. I wished to know what I might do during that year to ~~better~~ fit myself better for work on the Mission field. I was surprised at your answer, but many times since I have thought of it and have been thankful that you said exactly what you did. Probably you do not remember, but it was about as follows: "If during the coming year you can talk with a thousand persons individually on the subject of personal religion, that will be the best preparation you can have for work in the Foreign field. The successful missionary today is not the one who can preach great sermons or conduct great educational or medical institutions, but the one who can sit down beside another individual who is not a Christian with an open Bible and lead him ~~the~~ Christ."

I had for years been keen on "personal work". This put a new emphasis on the subject of personal evangelism and has helped me during the intervening years not to get sidetracked from the method which no doubt has been the most powerful evangelistic method from the time of Christ till the present.

During the years I have been in Iran it has been a source of satisfaction to ^{me} that I could always write to you and ask for advice. Often when the opinion of the Mission, Station or Church has been divided I have written to you on the subject and asked your opinion or advice. I can recall but one occasion on which your opinion and mine did not coincide. And how good it has been to have ~~your~~ the support of your advice. I hope I have never abused the privilege of that support. I have certainly tried not to do so.

The work during

One of the outstanding events of my life in Iran

was your visit in 1922. You helped us so much. The Iranians still often refer to that visit. I hope you will take seriously the suggestion made by Cady and Mrs. Allen and myself that you make us another visit. I suppose all the mission fields would gladly welcome a visit from you. I suppose each field believes there are special reasons why you should visit that one. Each mission believes that its work is of peculiar importance. The Iran mission can surely make out a good case. Is there any more difficult problem on the mission field, or any field, than the problem of Moslem evangelization? Is there any Moslem land where there is a better approach to Islam than Iran? Where there is more hope for advance in evangelism than Iran? Is not Dr. Zwemer correct when he says that the Iran missions are "leading the van in Moslem evangelization?" And just now we stand at the parting of the ways on the subject of Devolution. If our mission takes the wrong road, makes the wrong choice between the two ways, the result may be little short of calamity. I know of no one who can help the mission at such a time as this as yourself.

I wish I could act upon your suggestion and stop in Beirut for two weeks and consult with Mr. Nicol and others on the subject of devolution. But I cannot at this time. Perhaps I can visit Beirut later. Or perhaps the Iran member of the Near East Christian Council can do so, and can get the information that the Beirut missionaries can give.

I suppose that officially your retirement as a secretary of the Board, and the Iran secretary, has gone into effect. I hope that does not mean that we are to be deprived entirely of your council and advice. That would be a great loss to me personally and to the Iran work. Moreover I think it is quite impossible for me to break a habit, a good habit which I do not wish to break, of occasionally asking your opinion and advice.

And may I now ask your opinion on the following - has not the time come when evangelistic missionaries in Iran should work under the supervision of the Church rather than the Mission? Or at least begin to do so? Some of us began years ago, and have found it very satisfactory.

Please give my best wishes to Mrs. Speer. I hope you are all finding much joy in having your daughter from China with you on furlough. I wonder if she will agree with me that while furloughs are from certain points of view all very fine, from another point of view they are necessary nuisances. How they do cut into the work. I am not unhappy in the thought that I have probably had my last furlough.

Most sincerely yours;

Harry Schuler

Saturday evening Sep. 18th.

The Providence arrived about 7 P.M. It took about an hour + a half to land. I arrived too late to do anything about transport to Baghdad. But I believe the train crew leaves Monday P.M.

R. E. Speer

0017-1937

GANADO MISSION

TO THE NAVAJO INDIANS

CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

GANADO, ARIZONA

FREIGHT AND EXPRESS STATION:
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO



C. G. SALSBUARY, M.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

October 4, 1937

PERSONAL

69

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have just heard that you are to be on the Coast soon.

I want to extend a very cordial invitation to visit Ganado while you are in this part of the country.

Mrs. Salsbury and I look back on our association with the Foreign Board with a great deal of satisfaction, and that experience has been most helpful to us here. Your life, and the things you have accomplished for the Kingdom, have always been a great inspiration to us, and we have followed you through some of the shadows of these past few years with the deepest sympathy.

If you could spend a Sunday with us that would be ideal, but if that is not possible, we would be glad to have you come for whatever length of time fits into your schedule.

We will meet you in Gallup, New Mexico, and return you to that point when necessary.

Very sincerely,

C. G. Salsbury
Superintendent

CGS:rtf

MRS. HENRY V. K. GILLMORE
124 EAST 84 STREET
NEW YORK

69
October 6, 1937

My dear Dr. Speer-

Because my connection with the Foreign Board is slight these days, I missed the date of your retirement. Moving about since I did know it, has prevented my writing sooner. But no matter how late it is I cannot let the occasion pass without adding my note to the hundreds you have already received. It may be there were thousands.

There is no one in the world who has done more for the cause of foreign missions than you, and the whole world must be grateful to you. It is a better world to live in. And of course the pleasant thing is that "retiring" is about the last thing you know how to do; luckily. We can be sure of unremitting achievements on your part for years to come and we are happy in the thought.

I hope you will not be tempted, with no restraining hours, to work too hard but I fancy you did not consider hours much when you had them, anyway.

We will be looking forward to books. I can *imagine* your library peopled with past heroes and present friends who will not interrupt you but only speak when spoken to. Not ghosts but companions.

With congratulations and best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Maria M. S. Gillmore

18, Clive Road,
Allahabad

Sept. 17, 1937.

My Dear Dr. Speer,

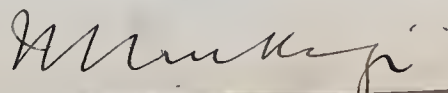
Please accept my grateful thanks for your very kind letter dated August 29th. Words of appreciation on my nomination to the United Provinces Legislative Council, coming from a person like you have a special value. It has been my constant endeavour to do my best for the Christian people especially those in the villages. My prayer is that God may use me in the same way through the Legislative Council. At a recent meeting I was able to press the claims of village Christians for getting some benefit out of the allotment which the Government has made for rural development, for marketing the products of village people, and for providing wells in villages.

You have, officially, laid aside the responsibility of carrying on the burden of India, but I am sure that burden will always be on you. It cannot be otherwise, considering what you have done for the extension of His Kingdom in this land as ~~the~~ senior Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. I feel privileged to claim a personal friendship with you and Mrs. Speer. When you make your home in Lakeville I shall think of my stay in that beautiful spot. I can easily picture to myself the beautiful scenery, the green trees and lawn which one sees from the verandah of your beautiful house.

With best regards to you, Mrs. Speer and your son and daughter whom I had the privilege to meet at Lakeville,

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,



Presbyterian Jubilee Apr 30 37

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LOST IN LIGHT

A Sonnet to Robert E. Speer

By WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKES

Out-shining in the thick of ling'ring mortal night
 High herald of the breaking dawn, yet unperceived
 By dwellers in the earthborn vale, scarce half believed
 By seers on mountain tops; whose waited, welcomed
 sight
 Bedecks the future scene in growing radiance bright,
 The Morning Star shines forth, the pall of dark relieved,
 The day at break of dawn. Its miracle achieved,
 The harbinger of morn is lost in solar light.
 What other have you been, these swift-winged seventy
 years
 Than some bright star of hope piercing our veiled skies?
 Prophetic, priestly soul! With sword of faith and truth
 Your clarion voice has riv'n our thrall of doubts and fears;
 Your guerdon, here below, of God's high calling prize;
 Deep lost in Christ, you hold the dew of deathless youth!

DES MOINES IOWA

DR ROBERT E SPEER

DLR10 156 5 AVE NYK

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY MAY I BE GRANTED THE JOY OF WISHING YOU MANY MORE HAPPY ONES

DR GEORGE W DUNLAP AND TAYLOR

Forest Park
Davenport Ia

Dear Dr. Speer, and
 Corning Presbyterial in
 session at Hamburg, Iowa,
 sends you greetings and
 best wishes for a happy
 birthday and ^{may} the years
 ahead be filled with health
 happiness and peace.
 Mrs. A. B. Shutt
 Committee Mrs. J. R. Henderson

MADE IN U.S.A.

1-1337

First Presbyterian Church

Henry Sears Thomson, Minister

Ottumwa, Iowa

September 29, 1937

73

Arr Max

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.
Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Ave. New York City

Dear Dr. Speer:

In connection with your retirement from the long and immeasurably useful leadership of our Board of Foreign Missions let me express my sense of appreciation of what this has meant to the church and the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know it must have held some pathos for you to lay down a task in which your heart has been so greatly concerned. I am merely a voice echoing what is held in the hearts of thousands of my fellowmen, a sense of profound gratitude to God for your leadership.

Then, of course, my mind goes back to the early days at Lake Geneva when very definitely your messages and personality on the Y.M.C.A. conference grounds led to my desiring to give my life to the Christian ministry. I can very definitely date the beginning of a great spiritual experience the first time I listened to your message.

I am proposing to present on successive Wednesday evenings during October and November a series of short biographical sketches of outstanding Foreign missionaries of our church, in connection with our recognition of the Centennial. Would you be so kind as to send to me your estimate of the seven greatest foreign missionaries of the Presbyterian church since our Foreign Board was organized. On receipt of this list I will seek to obtain biographies of these individuals for study and use.

With my own sense of personal appreciation and gratitude to you, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

H. Sears Thomson

208 South 42nd Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

October 12, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue 673
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

At the suggestion of Dr. Thomas C. Pears, Jr., I am sending you, with my compliments, a copy of my book, Presbyterians in Colonial Pennsylvania, which has recently come from the press. And with the same I send my sincere congratulations for the noble way in which you have labored in the service of the King as secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

May you be blessed with continued strength and health for service in the coming years.

Sincerely yours,
Guy S. Klett.

REV. HARRY A. RHODES, D. D.,
CHAIRMAN
A. CAMPBELL, W. T. COOK,
H. H. HENDERSON, J. Y. CROTHERS,
MISS ALICE M. BUTTS, R. C. COEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
CHOSEN MISSION
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
136-4 BENCHICO
SEOUL (KEJJO), CHOSEN

670

September 10, 1937

Dear Dr. Speer:

Last evening I was reading your address at the Foreign Missions Conference and I remembered that this is the day of your retirement. Some years ago you were here for your birthday and we went together to see the Catholic cathedral. As we came out and looked over the city you said, "I wish that in the early days our Mission had bought up some good church sites". Your birthday is easy for me to remember since it comes the day before my own-~~nd~~ which is also the birthday of Helen Pricilla Stam. In eight years more if I am spared, I will also experience the joys and sorrows of retirement.

Few men have had the opportunity and the consecration to live as wonderfully and as usefully as you have done. You have been blessed with good health which is a great asset in traveling to and fro over the earth. In thinking about your fruitful life of service I thought of Paul who said that he had not been "disobedient to the heavenly vision". You have had a longer time to serve than he had.

It is an interesting coincidence that your retirement comes in the year of the Board's Centennial which means that your last year as a Secretary of the Board has furnished you one of the greatest opportunities you have had to serve the great cause to which you have given your life. You can review the Past with helpful suggestions for the Future.

I hope that you and Mrs. Speer will be spared in health to do many worthwhile things that you could not do while you were tied up with your work as Secretary. I have regretted that Dr. Gale after his retirement ^{did not} write and work for Korea. No doubt he did in the community where he lived in England, but very little of his work came to us here except an occasional letter. You can continue to speak as you are able to travel and write for years to come.

As I read your address last night I was impressed with the fact that your "strength had not abated". I suppose you do not feel that way about ^{it} but to all appearances you are still going strong. Like all your other addresses and articles that I have heard and read, this one impressed me greatly.

Personally even we in Korea feel your retirement as a loss. We are facing a very serious crisis in our educational problems and we need wise and experienced men in New York who will assume some of the responsibility. A large majority in the Mission are willing to pay the price of their convictions if they are allowed to do so. Modern mission policies tend to be yielding, compromising, politic. Of course there should be something essential and worthwhile standing for before we "stand".

But this is by the way. The purpose of this letter is to express to ^{you as a leader of the mission our} appreciation of your work as a Secretary and leader in the cause of Christ. You have powerfully influenced us to better living and better work.

Affectionately yours,

Harry A. Rhodes

6 Bowen Court
Pasadena, California
October 9, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Spear
156 - Fifth Avenue
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Robert:

Some time back I had made a note to write you a birthday greeting for September 10 but somehow or other slipped up. You know how life is--the less a man has to do, the less he is likely to do. This life of loafing on doctor's orders has its compensations you see. I am sorry though that I overlooked the date and the note I had made. Our local folk considered the possibility of sending a joint letter signed by all of our fellow missionaries of your area but the decision was that each write a letter of his own. My failure to live up to this made me doubly sorry that I had overlooked the date. You no doubt were literally swamped that date. Greetings from your many friends scattered all over the world must have poured in upon you so that our wee contribution would not be seriously missed.

We often think of you and speak of you in our home circle, Mrs. Patton and I, and try to contemplate the future of "156" without your presence. You will of course continue to make your valued contributions to the cause in countless ways even from your place of retirement up in New England.

Mrs. Patton joins me in the very warmest of regards to Mrs. Spear and yourself.

Yours affectionately,

Chas. E. Patton
alias "Charlie"

Charles E. Patton

Mr Robert C. Green
156 Fifth Ave
New York City

MRS. WILLIAM ABBOTT BRYSON
311 GROVE STREET
ELMIRA, N. Y.

Dear Mr Green -

I want you to know that our local Missionary Society (First Presbyterian Church, of Elmira) is having its Centennial Meeting and 100th Birthday Party in honor of the Board of Foreign Missions on Tues the 17th of October - At that meeting we are to have a talk on Dr. Brewster's ^{Book} on our hundred years of missionary work.

Also we are going to tell our women something of the large part you have contributed to the spirit and the growth of that work, for the past forty years. Thank God for you and for men like you - We shall pray for you at that meeting and ask our

MRS. WILLIAM ABBOTT BRYSON
311 GROVE STREET
ELMIRA, N. Y.

Heavenly Father to spare you
for many years, to continue
your work, even tho it may
not be in the Capacity of Sec. of
the Board. —

May identify myself by saying
that I am a daughter of Dr. J. C.

Bishopard for many years in the
work in Utah. — Also, a sister
of Mrs. A. A. Fulton for 20 yrs a
missionary in Canton China, now
honorably retired. —

MRS. WILLIAM ABBOTT BRYSON
311 GROVE STREET
ELMIRA, N. Y.

About a year ago this time I
was in Lakeville Conn, just a
mile or two from your lovely home
at times I was carrying around a
heavy cast on my ankle, I was
not able to attend the little church
there and hear you preach.

However, my sister Miss Whittier and
her daughter Miss Prim did have
that privilege — My sister and I
were visiting the Prims who have
a farm just out of Lakeville.

MRS. WILLIAM ABBOTT BRYSON
311 GROVE STREET
ELMIRA, N. Y.

God bless you, Dr. Speer, and
continue to bless what you have
done for the work of His Kingdom.

Cordially

Hattie Richard Bryson
(Mrs. W. A.)

Genina
October 6th

315 Centre St
Grove City, Pa.

Sept 13th 1937

My dear Dr. Speer,-

you have
been in my thoughts for
the last few days. I
cannot refrain from writing
you congratulations for
the 44 years you have
spent helping & loving the
missionaries of the Presbyterian
church. What sympathy
you have given, what

prayers you have offered for us.

And now I know by experience that you cannot lay down this job; altho it may only appear that you do; as you leave your office. The sympathy, interest & prayers will last as long as you have breath.

May we all with one accord ask for the blessing of peace, and the blessing of health to come down upon you at this time and continue till you meet our Saviour face to face and receive the well done good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of the Lord. Amen

Sincerely

Altha L. Eakin.

Cherry.
Dec '37



Dr. Robert E. Speer, Servant of God

*Elected Secretary Board of Foreign Missions in 1891
Retires, having reached retirement age, in 1937*

"A few of us, in casual conversation, . . . were discussing Robert E. Speer. It was our common judgment that if he had lived in the first, second, or third century he would be known today as one of the Fathers of the Christian Church . . . Our opinion was based upon the total effect of Robert E. Speer's impact upon us as individuals and upon Protestantism at large over the previous quarter of a century. Measured by every test, we could only agree that he was among the mighty of our faith."—From a magazine article by Dr. Frank Fitt.

Bethesda Bre Church Phila

Oct. '37

PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

Retirement of Robert E. Speer

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We consider some people as the very pillars of great organizations. So has it been with that great Board of the Foreign Missions of our Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. We have felt for a number of years past that the rich spirit of devotion and consecration, of wonderful resourcefulness and the spirit of progress in connection with this board and its wonderful work was due to Robert E. Speer.

And in a sense we have been quite right. For practically forty years past a plus enthusiasm, vigor, statesmanship and consecration to the task of Foreign Missions in our Church has been due to Robert E. Speer. Others have counselled, others have also had brilliant ideas, enthusiasm and faith in the great movement, but the one man who transmitted all of this to churches, Presbyteries, Synods, General Assemblies and great and enthusiastic Missionary Rallies, was Robert E. Speer. He has been our peerless leader in this Noble Cause.

In the midst of August he was the morning speaker in one of the Presbyterian churches of Albany, New York, and spoke to a filled church. That gathering spoke well for both the speaker and His Cause.

We will miss him, but nevertheless we are indeed deeply thankful that the Lord gave him to our Presbyterian Church and to the leadership of our great Foreign Missionary Enterprise for a generation.

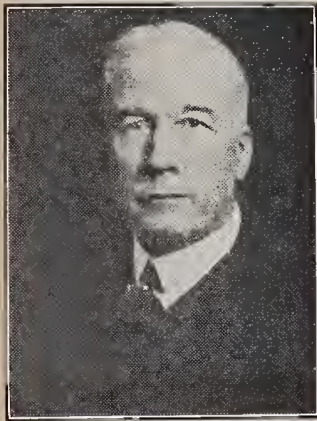
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L.B.P.

October Is Foreign Missions' Month - - -

THIS should be a great month, this month of October, in the history of our Presbyterian Church, for in it we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Work of Foreign Missions in our Beloved Church. Each particular church of our nine to ten thousand Presbyterian churches in the U. S. A. will celebrate this anniversary in its own way. A number will have radios in their churches, so that they can have those present at the church service, on a particular Sunday, hear the broadcast of Dr. Robert E. Speer's Message to our Church on Foreign Missions. Dr. Speer went out of office as the Senior Secretary of our Board of Foreign Missions on September 1st. That morning he dictated one of his last messages while in the office that he had held for forty years or more. That message was to: *The Presbyterian Messenger*, and we publish it in this issue.

Dr. R. E. Speer's Message



missionary duty rests. Indeed, in a sense it does not rest on that command. The missionary obligation would exist even if the words which we call 'The Great Commission' had never been uttered. To have such truth and good as Christianity possesses and not to share it, to stand in the face of the need of the world and possessing the supply that will meet that need and not to share it, and to see the spiritual hunger of the world and having the bread of life that will satisfy and not to support Foreign Missions, while professing to love Christ, is surely a travesty. Two words of the New Testament ought to suffice as an answer to the question: 'If ye love me keep my commandments,' and 'But whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in Him?'

Very cordially yours,

ROBERT E. SPEER.

Friends of *The Presbyterian Messenger*.

"Why should a Christian Church be interested in Foreign Missions? For the simple reason that it is a Christian Church. The very charter of its establishment charges it with the duty of making disciples of all the nations and of preaching the Gospel to every creature. It can not ignore nor repudiate these duties except by abandoning or compromising its fundamental principles. The mark of a Christian is obedience to Christ, and that is the mark of a Christian Church. It is not on the command of Christ alone, however, that the Church's

Lima, Peru.

Oct. 7, 1937.

Robert E. Speer, D.D.
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer: Please accept from me, even tho at this late date, sincere congratulations and felicitations, upon the consummation of a phase of ministry which may terminate in some activities now you have passed the 70 year mark, but whose influence and blessing will long continue.

May the coming days be especially rich and fruitful in the knowledge, fellowship and service of Christ Jesus our Lord whom you have loved and served so long.

God is giving me rich privileges these days, in meeting Indian men and women in far distant places, whose lives are being transformed by the grace of God. In a few places there are most encouraging indications of a real moving of the Holy Spirit in hundreds of lives who only recently heard the true Gospel.

May I ask your prayers for me as I go on to Chile and Argentina?

Thank you for the offer of copies of your book on life of Geo. Bowen, as noted in recently received Foreign Dept. Minutes.

In glad fellowship
in Christ Jesus,

Alfred C. Sneed.

Robert E. Speer, Servant of God

By Frank Fitt

IN A very striking paragraph in his *Autobiography* the late G. K. Chesterton provides us with a vivid memory of his childhood. He tells us that he was walking along a London street with his father when he became aware of the eccentric behavior of a crowd on the sidewalk. All the men and women in sight went down on their knees as a little dark carriage drew up by the curb. Out of it stepped the figure of a man who seemed to be clad in flames. He lifted his fingers over the crowd in blessing. His face was of an extraordinary paleness, of great spiritual beauty, "fitted together out of naked nerve and bone and sinew." So unusual was the face that the onlooking child forgot the gorgeous scarlet robes. As they passed on the father informed the son that he had just seen Cardinal Manning.

It would require a pen as colorful as Chesterton's to pay the full tribute to another prince of the church who this very month has reached that birthday which, according to rule, brings about his official retirement from the post he has filled since 1891. Robert Elliott Speer, born in Penn-

sylvania, student at Andover, graduate of Princeton with academic record rarely equaled and never excelled, member of the varsity football team, student at Princeton Theological Seminary for a year, was only twenty-four when he was called to be secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Now, as that board celebrates its centennial year, the man who has been the chief protagonist of foreign missions in American Protestantism for almost half that long period, who has given strength and glory to the cause nearest his heart through all that time, comes to the end of his allotted term. Such a triumphant accomplishment should be celebrated only to the sound of trumpets, to the sight of an army marching with banners.

A few of us once, in casual conversation in the intermission of a meeting of the General Assembly, were discussing Robert E. Speer. It was our common judgment that if he had lived in the first, second or third century he would be known today as one of the Fathers of the Christian church. We had not just come from under the spell

of his rich eloquence. It happened that none of us had heard him for some years. Our opinion was based upon the total effect of Robert E. Speer's impact upon us as individuals and upon Protestantism at large over the previous quarter of a century. Measured by every test, we could only agree that he was among the mighty of our faith. Remembering that conversation now I see no reason to revise the estimate.

There must be thousands among the clergy and laity in the United States and on the foreign field who owe some of their most inspiring and stimulating hours to Robert E. Speer. My first sight of him was on the platform of the auditorium at East Northfield during the student conference in the summer of 1905. He was thirty-seven, dark-haired, stalwart in physique and manner, handsome and dignified in appearance, tremendous in the appeal of his Christian manhood. Whatever the text or theme, there was always the insistent note of man's necessity of dedication to Christ as the highest. We listened spellbound, we lads in our teens, some of us from prep school, most of us from college, and to this very day we and thousands of our contemporaries trace some of the best within ourselves to the truths Robert E. Speer taught us.

A decade was to pass before I saw him again. He marched along in an academic procession down the aisle beside the pew in which I stood. He was nearing fifty now and the change was startling. The dark hair was shot with white. The granite face had more lines. The light of spiritual vision and purity, the light of a life "hid with Christ in God," was reflected upon it even more noticeably. The change that had come to Robert E. Speer was more than the passing from the old age of youth to the youth of old age. Something had worked the process of agony within him. Looking back now I recognize what it was. The World War had broken out. Robert E. Speer had reason for heartbreak. He knew the consequences that struggle would entail upon the mission cause.

A Prophet of Righteousness

More than a decade elapsed before I saw him once more addressing an assembly. It was the year of his moderatorship, 1927. How far away that year seems today! It was the period of our false and unworthy worship of the golden calf of economic prosperity. Outwardly all seemed well enough. Actually, our morals having crashed, our economic structure was on the point of crashing. That evening, addressing in Chicago several hundred of his fellow Presbyterians, ministers and laity, Robert E. Speer spoke as a prophet of doom. I remember how resentful I was as I journeyed to my suburban home. Why should any man speak such a message of warning? Why not put a greater trust in the finer side of human nature? I wondered what was the matter with Robert E. Speer. Was age getting the better of him? My questions were answered shortly afterward in the merciless accents of national calamity. Robert E. Speer saw more clearly than the rest of us.

Twice more I was to see and hear him—each time in Detroit and each time on the theme of his heart's devotion, the cause of missions. The first occasion was only a few weeks after brutal tragedy had done its worst with him. I wondered how the father who had just lost a son of

brilliant achievement and great promise could keep on going. Only a man of Robert E. Speer's tenacity of purpose and lifelong reliance upon a strength other than his own could have done what he did. He had definitely aged now. The hair was white. He still stood upright and uttered his message for missions in the clarion tones of his prime. Yet something seemed to have given away within. As he left the platform I noticed the weariness in his step. Would the deep personal tragedy break him down?

Triumphant Over Grief

The answer came last spring, the last time I saw him. The occasion was a mass meeting in honor of the centennial of the Board of Foreign Missions. It was apparent that he had weathered his frightful blow. Sitting toward the front I watched that fine face and listened to that ringing voice as for almost an hour he traced the history of the enterprise with which he had been identified for so long. A prince of Christ's Church was speaking! Afterwards a friend who had heard Robert E. Speer many times confided to me that never had he been gripped so definitely by his message.

I can never be sufficiently grateful for those few occasions when I have witnessed supreme manifestations of human personality. I think of Forbes Robertson in "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," Anna Pavlova in "The Dying Swan," Fritz Kreisler playing "The Old Refrain," General William Booth in his old age addressing his Salvationists. I would add to that limited list Robert E. Speer as I have heard him across the years at several intervals since 1905.

His has been more than the gift of spiritual radiance and platform power. Why do I claim that he would have been among the church fathers in an earlier epoch of our faith? No man in our time has done more than Robert E. Speer to advance the geographical frontiers of Protestantism and to intensify the Christian effort at strategic centers in the foreign field. Between 1896 and 1926 he made six major tours of missions about the world. With the exception of that other heroic figure who is always bracketed with him in the platform memories of our student days, John R. Mott, he has influenced more mission areas than any other leader. Added to this is his constant educational effort, by the printed page and by his personal exhortation, to make the Protestant Christians of this country aware of their opportunity. A very large share of the tens of millions of dollars contributed to missions during his long incumbency of office is traceable to his individual effort. It was entirely fitting that such a leader, whose parish is very literally the world, should have served as president of the Federal Council of Churches. It was the recognition of the inspired layman who was later to serve his denomination in the chief office of honor at its disposal.

A World Parish

In the midst of a career of incredible activity, traveling abroad and at home, addressing students in the colleges and congregations in the churches and national gatherings of Christians, as well as supervising the intricate ramifications of his responsibility as foreign mission secretary, Robert E. Speer has found time to write over thirty books on missions, Bible studies, theological issues, sermons and

biographical studies. These indicate the deep springs of his valiant faith. They reveal his loyalty to his background of orthodox, evangelical, Protestant Christianity according to the Presbyterian tradition. If Robert E. Speer has to be classified he will be among those reckoned conservative. In the larger sense such a man cannot be classified. He is more significant in what he clearly is than he could be made by any theological label which might be put upon him. How can anyone classify or describe Robert E. Speer's spiritual grace and drive of soul? Among men now living I know no one who gives a clearer and more convincing witness of consistent, Christlike character. It is written upon his face and bearing and utterance. It is evident in his whole record. As he comes to his seventieth milestone Robert E. Speer possesses the note of spiritual authority expressed in the strength and winsomeness which

God has given him. That is why I designate him a prince of the church.

Having attained "the Psalmist's span" Robert E. Speer will retire from the post he has occupied for forty-six years. The retirement will be official rather than actual. It is inconceivable that such a man, while health and strength are still vouchsafed, should pass from the active scene. In the time that may still be left to him we may be sure that his voice and pen will be engaged as much as ever in the cause of missions. In this last year of his official service there has been abundant sign that his appeal to youth has lost none of its effectiveness. Because he has been steadfast in his allegiance to the deep and fundamental phases of the gospel as it ministers to human life, Robert E. Speer has a timeless and eternal message. Now and for the future we wish him well as a servant of God.

629 N. Ardmore Ave.
on Los Angeles
Oct. 16' 1937

Dear Dr. Spurr:

I see Dr. Zvermer says
"Life begins at 70." In that case
you are just beginning! Any
way you are re-tired (Gordyean
perhaps) It is nice to be relieved
from certain routine duties and
things which seem to tie you
down, and to be free to do the
things you have longed to do
and have not had time to do.
Being retired is certainly not
being "put on the shelf." I am
sure your work and influence
is not going to be any the less
because your desk is in Conn.
instead of New York.
Still we who were missionaries
in India, are going to miss you

156 will never be quite the same
We certainly have learned to love
you. (You can show this to Mr.
Spur!) and you will always
be 'our Secy.'"

I am glad though we are leaving
Dr. S. Dods, whom we all know
and who has worked in India.
I hope the silver tea set from
Cachmir arrived all right. I am
sure it will serve you the best
tea you have ever drunk. I
am sorry I cannot drop in
for "afternoon tea."

God bless you, our dear Secy.
for India -

Yours very sincerely
Wm Allen

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We certainly have learned to love
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Spur!) and you will always
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God bless you, our dear Secy.
for India -

Your very sincerely

Wm Allen

29 Mansfield St.
Synn, Mass.

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October twelfth

My dear Doctor Speer,

For some time I have been thinking of writing you a personal letter of appreciation for all that you have meant to me during the last forty years or more. I fully realize that you must have received hundreds of similar messages but somehow that does not deter me from writing also.

If I am not quite mistaken it was you who addressed a meeting of girls and boys in Westfield, New Jersey about forty-two years ago on Foreign Missions. I was a delegate from the Crescent Ave. Church in Plainfield, my first conference, I think. I remember nothing that was said at that time but surely some line of thought was started in my boy's mind that afterwards led to my decision to be a missionary, while a senior at Yale.

That you would inspire me thru your books and example as well as on your visits to Yale while I was a student there was to be expected.

During two or three student conferences at Northfield God continued

to use you as an inspiration
to me as well as to hundreds
of other students.

Then came the correspondence
concerning the field of service,
the trip to Hunan, and thus more
contacts with you as our secretary.

Your influence over me did
not cease while I was traveling
around the U. S. trying to help
students find God's will for
their lives.

And now that I am the pastor
of a struggling church in New England
I covet for my parishioners
the privilege of knowing such
an one as you.

The least I can do, as you lay
aside the responsibilities of active
work on the Board, is to write
this simple word of thanks for
your influence over me.

I praise God our Father for
your constantly invigorating
and ennobling example of
Christian living.

Sincerely yours,
Gilbert Lovell

Maywood Presbyterian Church

CHESTER W. HAMBLIN, PASTOR
NINTH STREET AT STILES
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

October 20, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
The Board of Foreign Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

With Christian joy and yet with sincere regret we look forward to your broadcast on the 29th. The Centennial has had a deep spiritual effect on our churches in this region; we are proud of our missionary enterprise. True gratitude must mean consecration; and it seems to me that the spirit of consecration of the Church must be deepened by the example of your service. We must keep step with the march of years, but as we do we have keen regret that one who has stood for Presbyterian Foreign Missions and for Christ must give up his active participation. Your work has been blessed because it has been of Christ. We pray that for many years to come your contribution, though perhaps less formal, may be even greater as you continue to work for Christ's missionary program.

While we are writing to you, it will not be out of place for me to tell you of Dr. Norma Dunning's visit with us. She spoke twice in our Church last Sunday and made a lasting impressi n upon our people. The most thoughtful said that it was the best missionary appeal that they had heard - because first and last she held up Christ. What pleased Ellen and me most was that this dynamic appeal was not merely from the platform - but in our hours alone when she was a guest in the home we found the same note - that Christ must come first.

Some students at the medical school heard her at our Church and invited her to speak to them on Monday. We arranged for her to speak to the nurses at a local training school. Again - though giving a professional address - Christ was her center of reference. She needs no words of commendation from us - yet we must speak because she represents what Christ's missionary dynamic does to a life.

May God bless and guide you in the future as He has in the past - and thus may the Church be enriched for years to come.

Ever thine,

Chester W. Hamblin.

Golden Anniversary

1887 · 1937

Second and Knox Presbyterian Church

Celebration · October 17 · 18 · 1937

Sioux City, Iowa

REV. O. A. BRASKAMP, D. D.
Pastor

415 W. 4th St.
Oct. 20th 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer.
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

We will be listening in on the evening of Oct. 29th. We have an expert radio man who will put things in fine shape for us to catch your farewell message. That night we have planned for a church family night and we expect a large crowd.

We have just celebrated our 50th anniversary of our church. The church was filled to capacity at all the meetings. Wish you could have been with us. May God spare your life many years to come and richest blessings on your work.

Very cordially yours,
O. A. Braskamp.

Sackawanna Presbyterian Conference
Nov. 1937

ROBERT E. SPEER, D. D.
(Our Conference Leader)

Dr. Robert E. Speer was, until recently, one of the secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. He entered the service of the Board in 1891 after one year in Princeton Theological Seminary and has never been ordained. He was called to share in the work of the Board in succession to Dr. John C. Lowrie, D. D., one of the first missionaries of the Board to India, who had been Secretary of the Board since 1838. In 1927 Dr. Speer was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. at its meeting in San Francisco, and from 1920 to 1924 he was President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. He has made many visits to the Mission fields of the Church, beginning with an errand around the world in 1896-97. Of the 24 Missions of the Church he has visited all but three—Africa, Hunan and Venezuela. He has represented the Board at the great International Missionary Conferences—in New York, Edinburgh, Panama, Montevideo and Jerusalem. He is President of the Board of Trustees of Nanking University, of the Joint Committee of the United Mission in Mesopotamia, of the Board of Directors of the Missionary Review of the World, and is Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of the Princeton Theological Seminary and of the American Bible Society. He has written various books on religious and missionary topics such as "Missionary Principles and Practice", "Missions and Modern History", "The Finality of Jesus Christ", "Christian Realities", etc. He has been in the service of the Board now more than 46 years. At the age of 70, he retired from the Board on September 10, of this year. We assure him our high respect and affection, and pray that he be long spared to the Church in health and strength of body and mind.

Dr. J. Ross Stevenson will report to the Board on October 18th on his visit to Missions in Asia. The Board is planning to hold a two-day conference meeting on November 15 and 16 in order to consider more completely and intensively some of the great issues before the missionary enterprise today.

Dinner in Honor of Dr. Robert E. Speer

Following the Board meeting on Monday, September 20, the members of the Board and of the Executive Staff with their wives and husbands joined in a formal and very lovely dinner in honor of Dr. Speer, upon the occasion of his retirement. Dr. Erdman, President of the Board, presided. Fitting resolutions of tribute were presented to Dr. Speer by Mr. James M. Speers in behalf of the Board. Dr. Arthur J. Brown, Dr. Scott, Miss Schultz and Dr. Schell spoke in behalf of the Staff, adding many personal touches of the delightful and intimate friendship of the years to words of love and honor. Dr. J. L. Dodds presented to Dr. and Mrs. Speer an exceedingly beautiful Kashmir silver tea set from the Missions of India, and Dr. Herrick B. Young placed in Dr. Speer's hands an exquisite book of remembrance prepared by the missionaries and certain national Christians of Iran. Then, as a gracious benediction to the whole memorable occasion, Dr. Speer responded with an informal and inspiring address,—charging us all to carry on!

We are happy to be able to include here the Resolution of the Board adopted at the dinner session:

"We are met here this evening to do honor to Dr. Speer upon his retirement from official connection with the Board of Foreign Missions in accordance with the ruling of the General Assembly that no secretary of any board shall continue in office beyond the age of seventy. If we were not loyal Presbyterians, we would rebel against such a ruling which requires the retirement of a man so vigorous and young in body, mind and spirit as Dr. Speer. Assuredly, we need some other yard stick than that of years to measure the limit of a man's usefulness to a board or to the church.

"We recognize, however, that from the point of view of Dr. Speer himself this ruling gives him release from official duties and provides opportunity for him to do a multitude of things that he has long been eager to undertake. We have read in history that at a certain point in the career of *Alexander the Great* he wept because he had 'no more worlds to conquer.' *Robert the Great* has no occasion to weep for that reason. He has been straining at the leash for many a day wishing for freedom to undertake and master certain important pieces of work in the interest of the missionary and other good causes. Those will probably keep him fully occupied for the next 25 or 30 years.

"You will realize therefore that we are met this evening for a very different purpose from that described by Marc Antony on a certain occasion when he said, 'We come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.' We are met not to bury our caesar but to praise him. So, friends, secretaries, Board members, 'lend me your ears' while I present on behalf of the Board the following resolutions:

"First of all, we would record our deep sense of gratitude for the high privilege which has been ours in having been associated with Dr. Speer in the work of The

Board of Foreign Missions these many years. We are grateful for all the inspiration, illumination and stimulation he has given us, thereby deepening our own interest in the missionary cause.

"In the *second* place, we would record our sense of gratitude for his great administrative ability, his vision, amounting at times almost to prophecy, and his wise leadership in dealing with the many difficult problems which have confronted the Board throughout the years.

"In the *third* place, we would record with deep satisfaction his intimate knowledge of the whole missionary personnel. We have marvelled at the fact that he knew nearly all of them by name. We rejoice in the inspiration, renewed courage, and increased faith which his recurring visits to the field brought to the missionary family.

"In the *fourth* place, we would record our sense of gratitude for the splendid influence he has had on the young people of the Church, for the deep and abiding impressions he has made upon students in schools and colleges. We feel that in large measure he has been responsible for the development of the missionary interest in the Presbyterian Church. Our present generation of givers and pray-ers are the boys and girls to whom he began to present the missionary cause in school, college and conference. We have some estimate of what that development has been, if we measure that interest throughout the years by the increase of gifts which were \$853,-492.33 in 1891 when he entered the Board to that of \$4,602,372.63 in 1929 and which even last year while we were still struggling with the depression were \$2,-547,144.76. This is exclusive of legacies for many of which he was also responsible.

"In the *fifth* place, we would record our own sense of pride, pardonable pride, we think, in the pre-eminence of leadership which he has attained not only in our own denomination but among all the denominations which are interested in the cause of foreign missions. This outstanding leadership has unquestionably been the means of stimulating larger interest in the cause of foreign missions and in the work of Christ's Kingdom generally in boards and denominations other than our own. This leadership and influence has been still further extended by his writings which include some fifty volumes on missionary, religious and related themes.

"In the *sixth* place, we would record our thankfulness and gratitude for the splendid example of Christian character which with such modesty and loveliness he has held up before us. We have seen this displayed without wavering under the stress of circumstances which try men's very souls.

"Finally, we thank God for this man of God who has walked among us in simple faith and trust and with whom we have been privileged to associate. We know that we shall still have his continued interest, sympathy, counsel and prayers for the work which has been so dear to his heart, and we earnestly pray as he goes out from among us that God's richest blessing may be upon him, making the days and years ahead even more fruitful than those of the past."

Dr. and Mrs. McAfee's Visit

You will be interested in knowing that Dr. and Mrs. Cleland B. McAfee were in New York for a few days. Dr. McAfee came to the Board rooms on Friday, Sep-

tember 10, the birthday of Dr. Speer, and conducted an inspiring prayer service in the thought of that day, the National Board joining with the Foreign Board for the occasion. On Monday afternoon, September 13, the Executive Staff held a tea for Dr. and Mrs. McAfee in our social room on the thirteenth floor. Dr. and Mrs. McAfee are both well and are now on the Pacific coast where Dr. McAfee is helping in Centennial activities. Later on in the winter he will give a series of lectures on Missions at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo and at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Executive Staff Retreat

On September 2, 3, and 4 the Executive Staff held a conference at the Vassar Alumnae House at Poughkeepsie, New York. The purpose of this gathering was to bring the Staff together for spiritual fellowship and for thinking through and planning for our common task. It was a most satisfactory and encouraging occasion. The time was given to devotional periods, departmental conferences, discussions as to administration at home and abroad, and to facing the great fundamental issues and objectives of our missionary work. A Planning Committee was elected to preserve, refer and implement the findings of the Conference and to bring to the Staff from time to time suggestions for further progress. The retreat was so successful that the Staff has decided to hold a similar one on the 18th and 19th of December. In all our fellowship and procedure we have enjoyed a great experience of unity. In union there is strength!

In Conclusion

So, dear friends, we have endeavored to share with you pertinent facts and convictions which we trust will contribute to our mutual progress and power. We face a world of chaos and fear. But no matter where we may be, as we read or write these words, let us remember we are not alone! This is not our cause. It is the Cause of Christ! And in it (how well we know you remember) He is with us "always, even unto the end of the world."

Not so very long ago Dr. Speer sent around the Board offices an administrative paper, in which he called to our attention some present-day issues and their negative effect upon certain hearts and minds. At the close of the paper Dr. Speer placed a few unforgettable words. With these same words we close this letter to you:

"If, however, we still have faith and believe in God and the Gospel, we must not plan for contraction but for expansion, not for mere perpetuation of the past, but for something that will conserve all the good of the past and yet go on to something greater. 'Build thee more stately mansions, oh my soul!'"

Sincerely,
GEORGE T. SCOTT
IRENE SHEPPARD
CHARLES T. LEBER
WEBSTER E. BROWNING
J. LEROY DODDS
RALPH C. WELLS

FRANK OLIVER HALL
Chairman Executive Committee

HENRY A. ATKINSON
General Secretary

WILLIAM P. MERRILL
President

HAMILTON HOLT
Vice-President

LINLEY V. GORDON
Extension Secretary

G. S. BARKER
Assistant Secretary

THE CHURCH PEACE UNION

Founded by Andrew Carnegie

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DEAN SHAILER MATHEWS
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REV. ROGER T. NOOE
REV. LESLIE T. PENNINGTON
REV. HOWARD C. ROBBINS
MONSIGNOR JOHN A. RYAN
HON. CARL SHERMAN
REV. RALPH W. SOCKMAN
DR. ROBERT E. SPEER
MR. CHARLES P. TAFT II
REV. CHARLES D. TREXLER
DR. JAMES J. WALSH

Office of the Secretary
70 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

October 22, 1937

Cable Address—"ECCLEFAX, NEW"
Telephone—ALGONQUIN 4-276

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Conn.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Thank you for your note of the 19th. I hope that you will enjoy my book, "Prelude to Peace." I worked hard on it and am glad that I am receiving very interesting and favorable response from those who have read it.

I have only been home about ten days and have been exceedingly busy, but have had on my desk a memorandum to write to you congratulating you on your Seventieth Birthday. May you be granted many years for the same kind of splendid service you have rendered in the past. The last time I saw you I was pleased to see that you are still so vigorous. Of course in these days a man seventy years old is just at the beginning of the autumn of life and may expect a good many additional years ahead.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

Henry A. Atkinson

A Dominant Leader

The Moderator and Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America have joined in a tribute to Robert Speer, who for nearly a half-century has been the "dominant leader" in what is now the largest Foreign Mission Board in the world. It is agreed by these two highest officers of the church, temporary and permanent, that Francis Makemie was the outstanding Presbyterian personality in the Colonial period; that John Witherspoon "epitomized" the influence and significance of this church in the Revolutionary period, reaching their culmination in the organization of the first General Assembly and the National Government; that Charles Hodge represented the highest scholarship and statesmanship of this church in the nineteenth century; and that ROBERT SPEER occupies a "towering position" in practically all the great evangelical Christian movements in the closing days of the nineteenth century and the first years of the twentieth—so many years that he has reached the age of retirement. He will deserve a permanent place in the company of the great ecclesiastical statesmen of the earlier periods, it is believed. But it is the hope of all who know him that he will live on, though unofficially, ministering to a world that needs more than ever his counsel and his pervading influence. He has enriched humanity by what he is, by what he has said (and how he has said it) and by what he has done in pursuing and achieving the chief end of man.

If anybody speir at you
And ask you if you ken
One Robert Speer you'll say you do—
And there's no speiring better men.

—John H. Finley

Robert E. Speer

Doctor Robert E. Speer has lately completed forty-six years as secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, and attained his retirement age in September. Born in 1867 at Huntingdon, Pa., he attended Princeton University, graduating in 1889. Soon thereafter he was called to the Board of Foreign Missions, where he has given nearly half a century of unresting and single-minded service to the cause of foreign missions.

For as long as we can remember, the name of Robert E. Speer has projected itself as an outstanding landmark, in this and other lands, in

whatever related to the great commission of the Church. We seem to have always thought of him as the embodiment of informed, reflective knowledge of missionary aims, difficulties and accomplishments, and as a very able spokesman on behalf of Christian workers in the far corners of the earth. He has held positions of highest honor in the church. He has been moderator of the General Assembly. He has been chairman of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. He has headed committees and boards of various kinds. He has written innumerable books. But here our thought of him is as a member of the First Church—devoted to its welfare, constant in his attendance when in town, and genial and friendly to all its members, while ready always as a speaker or in other ways to participate in its life.

In bidding farewell to Dr. Speer, we feel the same bereavement in parting from Mrs. Speer, who has been so active from her first membership in the church, in the women's work for missions, and whose contribution to the spiritual tone of social and religious activities among the women has been so outstanding.

Half a dozen years ago Dr. Speer's colleagues and associates commemorated his forty years of missionary service and Dr. Elliott Field contributed to the Presbyterian Magazine at that time some lines which we are glad to reproduce.

Robert E. Speer

(Written on the occasion of Dr. Speer's fortieth anniversary as a Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions.)

*He stood, those two score years ago, a youth
Strong limbed, strong souled, great hearted, with
a care*

*For mighty matters burning in his breast.
He made no barter with the bid of fame,
The lure of cotton ease, the blandishments
Of power and gold, nor shunned the pilgrimage
O'er moor and morass toward the uncapped hills.
He challenged, deep and sure, man's love for man,
And, lo! A host flung forth with eager feet
Love shod to speed th' evangel of the Christ.*

*He stands today, a tow'ring crest upthrust
Above the plains of littleness and sloth,
With meekness terrible, and eyes that glow
Undimmed. He channels all the teeming hours
To one great purpose—that the Christless world
May find its Nazarene and know its peace.
His radiant, flaming faith has kindled flame
In ev'ry land, and youth lays hold on life
And age smiles toward the sunset in that bond
Of comradeship with him and with his Christ.
Dear Father, spare him to us! Still we need
His vision and the trumpet of his soul.*

The Alexander Memorial Chapel

TO MANY of us in the Old First Church, the month of October brings one day of especially poignant memory. The 12th of October was Dr. Alexander's birthday, and how vivid is our recollection of the happy celebrations of days gone by! The table wreathed with bitter-sweet, the cake with its ever-increasing number of candles, the song, the laughter, the genial companionship, the witty stories! And finally the circle with linked hands, as he led the chorus of voices "Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot"! And all who knew him can still say from the depths of their hearts, "He can never be forgot."

And to the end that this living memory be perpetuated, and that the God whom he served, be glorified, and humanity which he loved, be uplifted, the Alexander Memorial Chapel is now taking shape at 7 West 11th Street, as a loving and lovely tribute from his friends. Funds have come in almost unsolicited from those who consider it a privilege to have a part in this under-

taking, and there is enough money in hand for the essentials of a worthy and dignified little sanctuary. It is hoped that further beauty may be made possible by additional gifts. The Committee has been asked whether it would consider it suitable if individual memorials, such as windows would be acceptable. Their reply is that no matter what memorial we raise to Dr. Alexander's memory, his chief monument will always be the lives of the men and women whom he touched; so that to commemorate his friends or their loved ones within his Chapel, is the truest tribute to him. The Committee suggests that the carved iron grilles which have been designed to be placed at the west end of the Chapel would constitute very satisfying memorials. The central window has been assigned in memory of a dear friend and disciple of Dr. Alexander, and promises to be very beautiful. Other windows could be made equally beautiful. Lighting fixtures have not yet been budgeted. Many friends of Dr. Carl have

whatever related to the great commission of the Church. We seem to have always thought of him as the embodiment of informed, reflective knowledge of missionary aims, difficulties and accomplishments, and as a very able spokesman on behalf of Christian workers in the far corners of the earth. He has held positions of highest honor in the church. He has been moderator of the General Assembly. He has been chairman of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. He has headed committees and boards of various kinds. He has written innumerable books. But here our thought of him is as a member of the First Church—devoted to its welfare, constant in his attendance when in town, and genial and friendly to all its members, while ready always as a speaker or in other ways to participate in its life.

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THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

H. W. TRIBBLE, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY

2825 LEXINGTON ROAD

LOUISVILLE, - KENTUCKY

Oct. 22, 1937

File

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer,

Inclosed please find our check for \$12.50 as a token of our appreciation of the very fine article that you gave us for the October number of our Review and Expositor. Under separate cover we are also mailing you three copies of that number.

More than we can put into words do we appreciate you and your great work through the years. Both in your visits here from time to time, and in your writings you have ministered in a large measure to the life of our school, and through our students to many parts of the earth.

With every good wish to you I am

Sincerely yours,

H. W. Tribble

Newark Ministerial Association

107-11 HALSEY STREET

Mulberry 4-0101

R. P. WALKER

Secretary-Treasurer

89

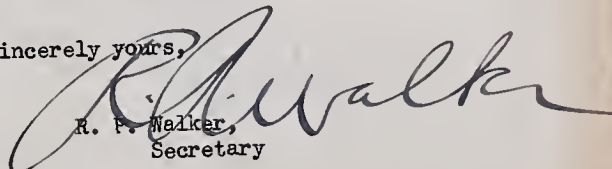
October twenty-eighth 1937

My dear Dr. Speer:

The Protestant Ministerial Association of the City of Newark, made up of pastors representative of the various denominations in this great Industrial city, wish to convey to you their recognition and appreciation for your great services to the Presbyterian Church, to the Foreign Mission cause in general, and to many other great spiritual enterprises.

They join with the thousands of others to wish you good health and the continued blessings of our common Father, as you come to reflect upon the rich life that has been yours in the service of the Kingdom.

Sincerely yours,



R. P. Walker,
Secretary

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

MR. HUGH DUNLAP
85 E. GREENWOOD AVENUE
LANSDOWNE, PA.

Orig Oct 23 '1937

Dear Dr. Speer,

It was with deep regret that I read in this evening's paper of your coming resignation from the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

I have never heard the need for, and the Power of the Cross so save presented more simply and convincingly than by you, and I am hoping that for many years your

voice will be heard, proclaiming the "unspeakable riches"

Yours Truly
Hugh Dunlap

Arthritis makes my penmanship a bit wobbly.

516 AUBURN AVENUE
CHESTNUT HILL
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

629

October 28, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York,
New York

Dear Dr. Speer:

You will be flooded with letters from all over the world on your retirement. But I cannot allow the occasion to pass without a word of appreciation and thanks.

Your activities have been ceaseless and the character and power of your personality has enhanced the value of everything you have done. And now the happy feature of your retirement is that it will release you for a still

further extension of your influence in, perhaps, an even more enduring form.

With admiration and affection,

yours very truly,

William R. Taylor

W. J. 20

Gartly-Ramsay Hospital

INCORPORATED

BATTLE CREEK METHODS

Memphis, Tenn.

WJ Oct 31, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Spear,

156 Fifth Ave.,

New York City.

My dear Dr. Spear:

I heard with great satisfaction and joy in my heart your Radio Address on Friday. I thank God for you and the service He has allowed you to give to Him during the years. I thank you for what you have meant to ^{me} ~~my~~ life. I was in the Nashville Volunteer Committee and your part in that made a deep impression on my life. Your Books - Missionary Principles and Practice - among others those early days, and your later ones, have been of great value to me. Our associations in Cincinnati, in 1914, in Panama in 1916, in New York in 1930 and on other occasions have been a

you to me. The last time was in Mon-
tréal the end of August of this year.

You will be grieved to know, and at
the same time with rejoice with me
that just two weeks after I saw you
in Montréal Mrs. Ross entered into a
higher service of our Great
Redeemer. I remember with
love in my heart that the words
of those who are in Christ is not
finished when the Body crosses to
function - She now serves more
perfectly as she looks on the Face
of our Lord, and grows more
and more into His likeness. She
shared with warm and appreciative
admiration for you and your service
in the work of World Redemption.

As I told you at Montréal
I expect to return to Mexico to
continue our work there. I
hope to be in the Country about
December 1st. The Synod
of Mexico has asked me to con-
tinue teaching in the Presbyterian
Seminary in Mexico City. This

Gartly-Ramsay Hospital

INCORPORATED

BATTLE CREEK METHODS

Memphis, Tenn.

I hope to be able to do. I am here
at the Gartly-Ramsay Hospital requiring
my strength preparatory to my return

I pray that God may give you many
years of service. I wish we might
have the joy of having you in Memphis
some time.

With every good wish,

Very sincerely yours,
W. B. Bass

W. B. Bass.

Will

October 29, 1937.

Dr. R. E. Speer,
Rockledge,
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Again are we indebted to you for the high honor you paid Will in the Missionary Review. It is a lovely tribute of friendship as well as a discriminating record of his services and portrayal of his character and spirit.

Thank you very much.

Cordially,

Lewis B Chamberlain

Nov 1. I wanted to add a word of great appreciation of your Radio address so held this & it got out of sight. The address was up to what was anticipated, & more can not be said! It was a joy to hear the tributes from all sides to you & your work i.e. the work you have given 5 decades almost, at your Board's Centennial meetings on Thursday.

Anticipating counsel, I plan to give our Board members of the The Milton Magazine the uplift of your address in our Dec. issue.

LSH

Nov 1. 37

First Presbyterian Church

SEVENTH AND BOSTON

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

REV. C. W. KERR, Pastor

W

October 30, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear friend Robert:

We had a wonderful time in our church last evening: We had a dinner that was very well attended; sang the Anniversary hymn; had the talkie and your voice was so very good. Then at 9:00 o'clock we heard you on the radio. We had placed at every plate a copy of your address given at the last General Assembly. All in all it was a wonderful night.

Next Wednesday evening we are having a "Robert E. Speer Appreciation" service.

I just want to take this opportunity, my dear friend, to tell you what you have meant to me through these years. Your messages and your personality have been a great inspiration to me. I thank God to-day that I have come to know you well enough to have you call me Charlie and I have been bold enough to call you Robert. I remember the first time I did that I was shocked at myself at being so bold. Yet you took it so kindly that since that time it seems natural when with you to say Robert.

May God spare you in health and strength for many years more of active service.

If at any time you are on a speaking trip out this way, be sure to include the First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa on your schedule.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Kerr

CWK:M

Jacob S. Payton

EDITORIAL OFFICES OF

The National Methodist Press

JACOB SIMPSON PAYTON, EDITOR

736 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING

Washington, D. C.

TELEPHONE NATIONAL 3729

October 30, 1937

RM

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
154 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

Last evening I listened in to your address marking the occasion of your retirement from the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church. This letter is to let you know not only of what advantage I think your address will prove to all interested in our ministerial effort, but also to acknowledge my indebtedness to you for your aggressive-ness in Christian work and for the example you set before me in my younger years.

If we felt that you were to dissociate yourself entirely from the work to which you have given your life your retirement would be an occasion of sadness. We know however that your very deep interest will keep you busy until the end of the day which I, among many others, pray may be long deferred.

Very cordially yours,

Jacob S. Payton
Jacob S. Payton a.m.

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Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico

J. WILL HARRIS LL. D., PRESIDENT
~~SAN GERMAN, PUERTO RICO~~

STOUGHTON & STOUGHTON
ARCHITECTS
NEW YORK

November 2 1937

Dilley Texas.

JWH

My dear Dr. Spear:-

*copy +
return
to my address
S.E.O.*

Mrs Harris and I went to to Dilley last Friday night and there in the home of a Presbyterian Elder, my brotherinlaw, we were delighted and encouraged to hear your voice. I could hear you breathe at times,so you may know it was clear. Wonderful radio that marks out all far,distant places and makes the world very s small indeed. I thank you for the message and would like to have the printed copy. May your remaining years be the best service,if a better could be rendered,for the Kingdom of our Lord. May God bless you richly every day.

I retired from my work in Puerto Rico,hoping that a native son might take it up but that was not now possible. I have a small cattle ranch here where I spent the first twenty years of my life. Can you not come down sometime and take a hand in cowboy life? We would be rejoiced to have you and Mrs Spear in our home. I believe you would be atleast amused to see how this part of the world lives as cattlemen.

With all good wishes,

Dr. Robert E. Spear,
New York City.

Cordially yours,
J. Will Harris
J. Will Harris.

A. Garland Rotenberry

Presbyterian Sunday School Missions

626 14th. Street,
Bowling Green, Kentucky
October 30, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

W

My dear Dr. Speer:

I listened to your radio address last evening with a great deal of interest and with mingled feelings - rejoicing because of the picture which you painted of the force of missions in the world during the past century, and your confidence in its ministry for the next century; regretting that you must turn over the reins of leadership to another instead of your being able to lead the forces, not only of the foreign missions enterprise of our own beloved Church, but of the world, for the next forty six years.

We younger ministers, and especially the Church, will miss your leadership and Christ-like spirit, but we shall always thank God for you.

May the smile of our Father be upon you and yours, and may He crown the years with peace.

Most cordially,

A. Garland Rotenberry
A. Garland Rotenberry,
Sunday School Missionary,
Board of National Missions,
Logan Presbytery

12
Mount Hermon Association

[INCORPORATED]

Bible Conference Department

W1

1133 HAMILTON AVE.

PALO ALTO, CALIF., 10/29

1937

~~The speaker:-~~

Both men Russell & I
want to express our deep
appreciation of the broadcast.
It came in so clear that
it seemed you were in
our living room.

and our blessings
upon you as you
lay down this wonderful
and active to take up
such tasks and take money
on the Lord may direct

Indeed may the pathway
shine brighter & brighter to the
perfect day.

In God's
life we do pray deeply for
His coming. But from both

1937 SEASON; JUNE 13th to SEPTEMBER 5th Truly

INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN SUMMER RESORT WITH BIBLE CONFERENCES AND CHRISTIAN TRAINING.

Write O. A. Ross, Business Manager or Dr. F. W. Russell for all information

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HARRY K. ALLEN
JUSTICES

The Supreme Court of Kansas

Topeka

November 1, 1937

W

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I had the pleasure last Friday evening in listening to your wonderful address over the radio which I understand was to be made world wide, and I am sure it was worthy of such wide circulation. Of course I was not surprised at its wonderful strength and merit, but I would not feel comfortable without telling you how much I thought of it and of what very great help it will have in the foreign missionary work.

I am very sorry indeed that your long term of service for the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church is about ended because of the strict rule with reference to age, but I know your inclination and earnestness will afford many opportunities for further usefulness along that line, and am sure your long term of inestimable service will be felt not only at home but in the foreign field through the next century, the close of the last one of which we are now celebrating.

Yours very truly,

Wm Easton Hutchison

WEH:a

First Presbyterian Church

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

DANIEL J. GRETZINGER
MINISTER

November 2, 1937

W

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City, New York

My Dear Dr. Speer:

Just a word to tell you how I personally appreciated your message to the Christian World which came to us over the radio last Friday night. It came over in grand style and it was yourself in every sense of the word. The people of our church were highly appreciative of it and I think it was one of the outstanding bits of influence which helped us in our offering the following Sunday morning.

This offering amounted to approximately \$400.00 and from what I can gather all the churches of our Presbytery seemed to have responded in about the same way. I do feel that much of this liberal response was in appreciation of your ministry to us as the leader in the great foreign missionary enterprise of our church.

I know that even though you will not be an active Secretary of the Board any longer, your influence and your wise counsel will be sought even more from us all as time goes on.

May God's richest grace and blessing go with you ever.

DJG:MR

Sincerely,

Daniel Gretzinger

MATTHEWS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

J. A. OWEN, MINISTER
ALBANY, TEXAS

11-1-57

Doctor Robt. C. Speer,
New York City
My dear Dr. Speer:-

W

As our guest speaker Friday evening you were most heartily received. It seemed that you were in our very midst. Your voice was clear and every word was heard as distinctly as if you had been present. And what a message. We want to express our deepest appreciation for the opportunity of hearing you again. I heard you first while I was in Princeton; again in Dallas at the Womens' Convention, and still again in Denver at the Assembly.

At the close of the program our congregation voted unanimously to have the pastor write you expressing our feeling of appreciation and gratitude for your good message.

Personally, I think-for the rural churches at least-that something like this ought to happen once each quarter. It is a great occasion for us way out here in Texas to hear one of the outstanding leaders of our Denomination. So why not have it often?

With kindest personal~~ly~~ regards, I am

Very truly yours,

J. A. Owen
A. S. An offering was taken Friday night for the women, and another Sunday for the church for Foreign Missions.

BELLEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH AND BELLEFIELD AVENUES
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

MINISTER'S STUDY

111

November 4, 1937

Dear Dr. Speer,

One of the unlooked-
for and to me most
gratifying results of
the entire Centennial
Observance took place
in Bellefield Church last
Sunday evening.

We have just organized
a high school young
people's group. And last
Sunday evening, in determining
a name for their group
and on their own

initiative, they decided to
call themselves the Robert
E. Speer Society.

I feel sure this will
cheer your heart and
reassure you as to the
permanent value of the
Centennial Observance.

I am wondering
if you would not like
to send the group a
letter of good wishes
for their future success
which they might keep in
their archives.

In closing, I would
like to add a word of
personal testimony to

your influence on my life.
When Carnegie took me
to the Student Volunteer
Convention at Des Moines
I was planning an engineering
career. I saw you reading
your New Testament and
praying on the train on the
way out. Later, I heard
you speak. Your words and
your spirit had much to do
with my decision to enter
the gospel ministry, a
decision I have never
regretted.

With very good wish, Son,

Yours very sincerely,
C. Marshall Stein

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES
INCORPORATED IN TENNESSEE
POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER 330

LLIS,
TREASURER

NASHVILLE, TENN.

November 4, 1937

ky

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 -5th Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Your retirement from active service means so much to me that I feel I should express my feeling as to what the association with you the past twenty five years has meant to me.

I first met you at Chattanooga, Tennessee in February 1912, later at St. Joseph, Missouri when you spoke at the Westminster Church, my call to this work having recently been received.

Since that time I have loved you as a Brother in His Service and as a friend whose unfailing kindness and courtesy has meant more to me in my association with those engaged in the same cause than any other.

May you be richly blessed and have many years in the service of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Our dear Dr. Chester is now at Safety Harbor, Florida and he tells me physicians give him little hope for recovery from his malady.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Edmund Finnis

Please let me express my profound appreciation of your address on Missions which has just come to me over the radio, and my thankfulness to you for the great truth you uttered. -- A. M. Trawick, Dep't of Religious Ed'n, Wofford College Spartanburg, S.C.

My congregation and I were thrilled by your broadcast on Centennial Missions. -- Rev. Andrew Allan, Ellicott City, Md.

It was an unusually fine presentation of the value of missions. -- Mrs. James W. Algeo, Sowamset, Barrington, R.I.

Dr. Speer is one of the princes of the Kingdom work today, and for the long years. -- P. J. McLean, 933 York, St. Aiken, S.C.

For the opportunity of hearing Dr. Speer's address this evening, I am very grateful to the N.B.C. Addresses that bring before the people message concerning great movements that promote peace and understanding and world-wide objectives cannot be broadcast too frequently in this day of unrest. -- M. I. Tonner, 3303 N. 21st St., Omaha, Neb.

I would be very thankful to receive from you a copy of that splendid address delivered by that brilliant servant of God, Mr. Robert E. Speer. -- Thomas J. James, 79 Clifford Av., Pelham, N.Y.

I have just listened with deep interest, and a glad and thankful heart, to the very interesting address by Dr. R. E. Speer. And how I do wish and pray that the time will soon come when the world can hear such an address every day of the year. What a blessed and true testimony given with such a profound faith in God and the blessed Bible and no apology made in any way. And may millions of people say: "praise the Lord" for these gracious words, and may there be plenty of finance for all missionary work. -- Mrs. Jennie Buttrem (age 70) Glendora, Calif.

Dr. Speer's voice has a splendid radio reception. God bless him from the bottom of my heart. -- Mrs. Carl Kepler, South Pekin, Ill.

The people of this continent must surely be appreciative of your kindness in broadcasting last night that splendid address of Dr. Speer's. Your offer to send copies to listeners is, I presume, open to a "good neighbour" in Canada. If so, I shall be glad to receive one which will be passed around our missionary circle. -- Alex. Mae Sween, 4977 Victoria Av., Montreal, CANADA

... the splendid address made over your network last night by Dr. Speer. We have no man who can equal it and the people owe you gratitude for giving them the opportunity of hearing it. -- R. P. Perry, Reedsburg, Sauk Co., Wis.

This was a great occasion, and I believe I am one of the many who enjoy such broadcasts of events of religious significance. -- Harold E. Cheyney, 2940 Rivermont Av., Lynchburg, Va.

... Dr. Speer's address of tonight. It was rather short; would have loved to hear or listen to him longer, for his has been a valued service to the cause. Would that we had more like him; better still if he were 25 years younger. -- Grace C. Macy, 120 York St., Camden, N.J.

Instantly, after listening to you over the radio speak the most vitally spiritual message of our time, I hasten to thank you - asking God's richest blessing upon you to reward you for your loyal, devoted service to our saviour, Jesus Christ, and his followers. -- Wm. W. Ellenberger, 58 S. Lansdowne Av., Lansdowne, Pa.

May I join my warm appreciation with that of hundreds of other listeners-in for the privilege of hearing Dr. Speer tonight, a noble leader of missionaries. Surely he deserves the "Well done, good and faithful servant."
 -- Miss Clara S. Chase, 21 Fuller St, Brockton, Mass.

Allow me to say it is a splendid thing for the Broadcasting Company to give time to this type of appeal and appreciated by number of our citizens, usually of too quiet a type to express appreciation - as for more "popular" and entertaining features.
 -- Mrs. H. C. Coleman, Nonkanahwa, Kerhonkson, N.Y.

Will you kindly send me a copy... It is the best thing we have heard on the radio this week, and worth having a radio for if there were nothing else. We only wish there were more broadcasts of this nature.
 -- Miss Elizabeth E. Lown, 23 Mill St., Rhinebeck, N.Y.

Listened with great delight and much profit to your address last night. Accept my congratulations upon so many wonderful years in the work of World Missions.
 -- Rev. H. T. Covert, Woolrich Community Ch, Woolrich, Pa.

I should like also to express my appreciation of your very apparent cooperation in so important a service to society. -- Herbert D. Comey, 35 Washington St, Reading, Mass.

Thanks for the stimulating address by Dr. Robert E. Speer last night. There is hardly a better program that a station could sponsor, and I thank you heartily for it.
 -- Howard B. Haines, 132 N. Broadway, Yonkers, N.Y.

He is truly one of the great men of our times and as he spoke I knew that I was hearing someone who has lived always the finest things the world has ever known. May I express my appreciation to you for this broadcast.
 -- Miss Virginia L. MacLeod, 420 W. 121st St., New York City.

I appreciated the truth of his statements and desire to read it to a Mission Study group of my own. -- Paul B. Moore, 503 Woodland Terrance, Philadelphia, Pa.

It was a great privilege to hear him but will be an even greater one to have these grand thoughts to read and pass on to those who did not hear him.
 -- Nina D. Box (Mrs W R), 520 Academy St, Watertown, N.Y.

I have just finished listening to your address, and wish to thank you for the enlightening message you gave. -- Mrs. Louis V. Leshner, Williamsburg, Pa.

We consider this one of the finest things you have ever presented. From one of the world's really GREAT men. -- Edward A. Schettler, 1727 Laurel Av., Knoxville, Tenn.

Very impressive address which he delivered last evening, marking his retirement of fifty years of service as missionary secretary and international messenger of good will.
 -- Rev. H. W. Kaebnick, 126 E Church St, Somerset, Pa.

Many thanks for letting us hear again this great world figure.
 -- Box 181, Penfield, N.Y.

It was a most statesmanlike address and a great treat to hear.
 -- Rev. Frederick C. Wilson, Ipswich, Mass.

One of the finest, comprehensive speeches that I have ever heard was the speech tonight by Dr. Robert Speer. -- Rev. E. W. Seibert, Somerset, Ohio

NBC (Blue Network) - New York, N.Y.

COMMENTS on Dr. Speer's Radio Address

133

Your network is to be congratulated upon putting this type of program on the air; they are altogether too few while other types are too numerous. Thank you very much.

-- Mrs. S. F. Dibble, 108 N. Oakhurst Dr., Beverly Hills, Cal

I am glad you are playing an active part, by broadcasting such talks, in presenting positive and constructive programs to make a better world.

-- G. T. Scoville, Parkside Apartments, Hershey, Pa.

I have just heard Dr. Speer's address and liked it better than any religious talk I have ever heard over the air. -- Lloyd James, 1036 Kincaid, Eugene, Oregon

I regret that Dr. Speer was limited to 15 minutes in as much as his life, work and words have had such an extended and great influence. The value of such an address far exceeds the amusement value of the programs preceding and succeeding his address.

-- G. B. Todd, 721 12th St., Oakmont, Pa.

Every Presbyterian met with us for supper and then listened to him. It was a great treat and we wish we could have more such programs.

-- Mrs. Elwyn Ballard, Jemison, Alabama

I was glad to hear the announcement we could have Dr. Robert E. Speer's radio talk last evening at the Presbyterian Church.

-- Mrs. L. M. Ingersoll, Salem, Oregon

We were delighted to hear it and thank you for broadcasting it.

-- Mrs. C. R. Osborne, 4201 Sassafras St., Erie, Pa.

WENR - Chicago, Illinois

I wish to express for myself, and in behalf of my congregations, a sincere appreciation for your courtesy in presenting the speech of Dr. Robert E. Speer on Friday night, October 29. Reception was satisfactory, and our church dinner on that night was worth while, with the radio speech as the climax of our program.

-- Rev. Charles A. Surber, 422 N. Fifth St., Covington, Ind.

Last Friday night I heard a broadcast over your station by Dr. Speer on Foreign Missions. I enjoyed this broadcast greatly, and want to thank you for putting it on. I hope you will continue with this type of program.

-- W. S. Duncan, 1210 Gregory Ave., Wilmette, Ill.

KVOD - Denver, Colorado

As the secretary officially in charge of the Central District Office ... I wish to assure you of our great appreciation of your kindness on the occasion of the recent Centennial broadcast of our executive secretary, Dr. Robert E. Speer. From many points in this area letters are coming to me assuring me of the splendid reception which was afforded and of the great satisfaction experienced by the thousands of our Presbyterian people who were enabled to experience in this modern way their sense of unity with each other. While other messages of thanks will be coming to you from out over your territory, I wanted you to have from my hand personally this word of thanks.

-- James E. Detweiler, 77 W. Washington, Chicago, Ill.

On behalf of my church, I wish to express appreciation for the broadcast of the address of Dr. Robert E. Speer on October 29. Your kindness made it possible for our church and others to make this address the feature of a congregational dinner.

-- Rev. James B. Douthitt, 4321 Raleigh, Denver, Colo.

KVOD - Denver, Colorado

North Presbyterian Church people voted thanks to you for the Broadcast of Dr. Speer's address last night - at 8 o'clock. This service enable the people to hear the message perfectly. May I add that special notices were sent out to the churches of the Mountain Area telling them of what you were to do. I am sure a thousand other churches were thus served by you. -- Rev. W. L. Schmalhorst, North Presby Church, Denver, Colo.

I heard the Dr. Robert E. Speer address broadcast at Central Presbyterian Church and my family heard it at home, thanks to you. Hundreds of Presbyterians would have been unable to hear this great churchman's farewell words if they had had to hunt over the dial for a distant and weaker station. You did us a real service and gave us an inspiration which we greatly appreciate. We shall always feel kindly toward K.V.O.D. for this and will listen to it more often.

-- C. M. Scarborough, 1565 Kearney St., Denver, Colo.

I was one of the 300 or so from just one church in the city who heard Dr. Speer's Centennial address last Friday night over your station. Wish to express my personal appreciation for the courtesy extended us. Everyone felt that it was very worth while.

-- Margaret M. Rupers, Denver, Colo.

We want you to know how much we appreciated the splendid service last evening at Central Presbyterian Church. Hearing the fine address of Dr. Robert E. Speer was truly wonderful. Thank you. -- Mr & Mrs Sewell, 718 Grant St., Denver, Colo.

... sermon you gave over the air last evening on the benefits the world derives because of the untiring labor of the missionaries. It is the best and most logic discourse that I ever heard on that subject.

-- J. H. Spaar, Route 3 - B 498, Olympia, Washington

Dear Sir:

MS

Leeds Kansas,
Oct 30, 1937.

It was a real pleasure to hear your message via radio last night. accept my thanks for your many years of service and so noble a conclusion i.e. a dictum of the doctrine and its review in missionary application.

Sincerely
Thos. B. Drey

WLS

Mill Valley, Calif^o
Oct. 30 - '37

Dr. Robert C. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave. N. Y. C.

My dear Bob: -
I want to tell you
with what deep interest, and
what stirring of memories, Mrs.
Waddell and I listened to the
calm quiet tones of your in-
spiring and strength-giving
radio address last night.
It did us good, and I am
sending to the N. B. C. for 4
copies of it - one for each of
Susan's brothers and sisters.

Your voice did not
sound like that of a man
"retiring after nearly 50 years"
It recalled to my mind the time

"Augusta", while Eleanor was with them, opening their home for Susan's quiet little wedding. It was very sweet of them. We know how anxious "Mamie" as Eleanor calls her, must feel now over Yereeting interests and all others in China.

No doubt you have heard of dear old Jack Balhoun's passing two weeks ago. It came to me as a very great shock, as no doubt to many of '86 and Sen's '92. For he was beloved by both. A stalwart of the Old School.

Please do not think this scroll demands an answer, as I know there are many demands on your time and interest.

Affectionately

J. M. W.

NOV 3-1937

2437 University Blvd. So.
Seattle, Wash.

Ans. _____

Oct 29th 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer,

Thank you
for your message. It came
to us here as we were at our
dinner, so clear and distinct.
We could hear every word.

You shall ever belong to
us in a very real sense. We
love you for what you have
accomplished, but most of all
for what you are. You still
have a great service

Very sincerely yours

Emily S. Graham

*Do not think of
replying. You are so busy*
2.3.37

Bedford, Penna.

Dear Dr. Speer: Oct 29 1937

The reception of your
address this evening was
perfect. For the benefit
of those who were unable
to turn in, we will
read your speech from
the pulpit Sunday morning.
Thanks a lot. R. S. Caldwell

WOMEN ARE PRAISED FOR MISSION WORK

Speer Recalls Pioneer Service in Foreign Field at Centennial Session of Presbyterians

Dr. Robert E. Speer, retired senior secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, welcomed leaders from the foreign field at a luncheon held yesterday as part of the centennial celebration of the establishment of this branch of missionary work.

About 1,000 women were present at the meeting in the Hotel Commodore. They represented various member organizations from the metropolitan area, headed by Mrs. Edwards Cleveland of Brooklyn, who presided.

The centennial program will close on Sunday, which is known as "centennial day" because of the establishment of the mission service by Walter Lowrie in Baltimore on Oct. 31, 1837. Contributions received on that date will go toward the \$1,000,000 centennial fund to be used for the extension of this service, according to the announcement of the committee.

Addressing the members at the luncheon, Dr. Speer referred to the pioneer work carried on by women in the early days in the foreign field. He reminded them also that the women who organized the work here were "an integral part of our missionary organizations."

The Rev. Dr. Enrique C. Sobrepna, Moderator of the United Evangelical Church of the Philippines, attributed much of the progress of that Commonwealth during the last forty years to the work of the foreign missions.

Other speakers from the foreign missions were Mrs. Wai King T. Chik, dean of women at Lingnan University; Mrs. Lyman E. Caruthers of Miraj, India; Dr. L. George Paik of Chosen Christian College, Mrs. P. J. May of Foullassi, Africa; the Rev. Miguel Rizzo Jr. of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Mrs. Douglas H. Decherd, Aleppo, Syria; the Rev. Herriek E. Young of Iran and Miss Alice Schaefer of Siam.

MARKET SQUARE WOMEN TO HOLD PRAYER SERVICE

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of foreign missionary work in the Presbyterian Church of the United States, a prayer service will be held at 1 o'clock this afternoon in Market Square Presbyterian Church.

The Friday afternoon prayer services have been conducted weekly at the church for over 125 years. A service entitled "Century of Progress" will be used. It was written by Mrs. Robert E. Speer, the former Miss Emma Bailey, of this city, and a member of Market Square Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Speer now makes her home at Lakeville, Conn., and her husband, Doctor Speer, this year was retired as secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, a post which he held for many years. He is now a member of the board of trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary. Leader of the service will be Miss M. Glenn Gottschall.

* * *

Dr. Speer Was 70

Dr. Robert E. Speer, a trustee of the Northfield Schools, who retired last May as secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions is observing his 70th birthday today at his home in Lakeville, Ct. Members of his family, including his wife, his son William, who is a teacher at Shady Hill school in Cambridge, his daughter, Miss Margaret Bailey Speer, who is dean of women at Yensing University in China will all be present.

The many friends in Northfield will wish for Dr. Speer many more years of usefulness on this, his birthday. He was greeted by many during his visit here this summer. He is to devote his future time to writing.

Monday Morning (Nov. 8, 37)



From the EDITOR'S TYPEWRITER



"Christianity Is God's Search for Man"

THE Editor sat, not in his editor's chair, but in his run-of-the-mill Christian's chair at home, and listened to Dr. Speer speaking over the blue network at 10 P.M. on Oct. 29. But when Dr. Speer was first the spokesman of the Church 46 years ago, his voice could not be heard outside the room in which he spoke: now it runs via the Kennelly-Heaviside Layer to the ends of the earth. We cannot regard this message which the announcer called "a farewell" message as being in fact a farewell message, any more than we can suppose that the radiations which carried his message through the air on Oct. 29 have said farewell to the ceaseless round of their influence. We must have again and again that message that "Christianity is God's search for man" and that "The Christian Church believes that the gospel is good news of deeds done by God in history for the salvation of man." We must have again that persuasive demonstration of the growing power of the Christian faith, working like light in a darkened world. Gray, in his "Advancing Front of Science," says: "There is no darkness in any absolute sense. The deepest mine is aglow with the rays generated by its warm rocks and metals—if we could but see them. The blackness of the abyss of interstellar space is shot through and through from every direction with innumerable darts of radiation. Man, so weak of eyesight that he can directly apprehend only a sixtieth part of the range of radiant energy that we now know, has yet discovered that wide range." Dr. Speer tells us that the darkness of the present world situation is shot through and through with the Light.

The Messenger Nov. 4 '37

The Retirement of Robert E. Speer

It is a matter of interest and regret not only in the Presbyterian fellowship but in all the Churches of Christ throughout the world when a prince of the Church, like Robert E. Speer, retires from active service. He has always seemed so young and virile, with the music of the forward march in his undaunted soul, that one hated to think of the time when he would be compelled to place his prophetic mantle on other shoulders. But increasing age is bound to take its toll at length, and so this brave knight with shining armor must unload some of the heavy responsibilities he has borne with such radiant joy and unfailing courage.

To the college students of a generation ago, Dr. Speer and Dr. John R. Mott loomed like mountain peaks of moral and

spiritual strength, and down through these many years a multitude of men have trusted these great leaders and have not found them wanting.

Dr. W. H. Foulkes, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, has truly said of Dr. Speer: "He is a 20th century Christian stalwart, a giant tree in the forest, with his roots deep down, and like the One he has so devotedly served, he has become a Rock in a weary land to multitudes of wayfaring souls."

This noble man of God was not spared from baseless aspersions, sinister suspicions, or acute personal sorrows; but he has lived so close to Christ that even in his Gethsemanes he could reveal a beautiful considerateness for others and an unwearied devotion to duty. Many of us have reason to remember his eloquent sermons and addresses or the products of his fertile pen. Whether spoken or written, his messages were always quickening and contagious with the missionary passion and an uncompromising loyalty to the Lord Jesus.

"It was always a blessing to hear Robert Speer speak," said a friend, "his wonderful voice had tears in it; and even in his sternest declarations, one could feel the throb of a great, tender love."

It is not possible in this brief appreciation to pay fully our debt to one who has so greatly blessed us by his manifold ministries. In the words of Dr. Foulkes: "Here he stands, to go in and out among us, please God, for years to come, four-square to all the winds, monumental mind, conscience like a razor blade, lover of truth and beauty, lover of men for Christ's sake, humble and bold, a modern incarnation of the spirit of the galaxy of saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs, to whom 'to live is Christ' and to whom to die with so glorious a harvest on the other side will be deathless gain."

DR. HELEN F. BARNES, PRESIDENT
MRS. R. E. STUNTZ, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
MRS. CHARLES A. NORTH, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
MRS. FRANK B. FIRMIN, THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. ARCH ROBISON, RECORDING SEC
MRS. DUDLEY LEA, CORRESPONDING S
MRS. J. E. RANES, FINANCIAL SECRETAR
MRS. CARRIE T. LOWREY, TREASURER

MI

Federation of Women's Clubs

Findlay, Ohio

My dear Friend, Dr. Robert E. Speer,

It is long since I have seen you, but I do not forget you and your great work among our Y.W.C.A. girls at the various summer conferences, and all the other places. You have led a great life of usefulness, and when I listened to your review of the Missionary work last Friday night, I was thrilled with its meaning, and its portrayal of the vast good accomplished throughout the world by the missionary folks, and the backing of those who staid at home. Your voice was perfectly clear, and I heard every word as clearly as though it were in the same room, and I was sitting here in my own home listening to the radio. Wonderful time in which we live. I am enclosing the report of the celebration held here in the Pres-

byterian church, of which Mr. Lindsay is pastor. He is a good friend of mine even though I am a Methodist minister's daughter. Fine sympathetic relations I say. I think you may be interested in this clipping from our city paper in our little city of 20,000 people.

I am also writing to ask for a copy of your address if you are able to supply me with one. I realize very many of your friends will ask you for it, too, but I want a copy so much and will appreciate your courtesy if you will ~~have~~ one sent to me please. I hope all is well with Mrs. Speer, and your children, and all your interests, and work.

With best wishes, and respect I am

432 W. Sandusky St.,

Findlay, Ohio.

Last day of October 1937.

Your friend,

Helena J. Barnes

Tureen Dinner and Program is Held at Church to Mark Centennial of Missions

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY of the founding of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian church in the United States was observed with a tureen dinner and program, sponsored by the Women's Missionary society of the First Presbyterian church, Friday evening.

One hundred and fifty were served the dinner in the dining room of the church, which was decorated with Jack-o-Lanterns and lighted candles. Mrs. Frank Firmin and Mrs. E. V. Burns were chairmen of the dinner committee. A number of the men of the church also assisted in the kitchen.

A larger group attended the program in the church auditorium presided over by the pastor, Rev. John David Lindsay. An opening selection was played by the orchestra directed by Prof. Oliver Schumacher.

A feature of the program was the showing for the first time of the moving picture of the members of the congregation who attended the world-wide communion service in the First Presbyterian church on Oct. 3, which was taken by Dr. Frank Wiseley. The pictures were shown on the screen by Lynn Lyon.

Mrs. George F. Byal, president of the missionary society, gave a short talk and introduced Mrs. Albert Zugschwert, who conducted the devotional period.

Mrs. E. H. Westfall, who had charge of the second part of the program, introduced LeRoy Wolfe, who sang "Hilltop," accompanied by Mrs. Wolfe.

Mrs. Westfall gave an interesting illustrated lecture on "Missions, At Home and Abroad," which she illustrated with slides to show the work of the Board of Foreign Missions and the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian church in the U. S. A.

Rev. Lindsay read the address of Dr. Rohart E. Speer, who is retiring from the Board of Foreign Missions after serving for 46 consecutive years as its secretary and who is known all over the earth to student generations.

Many of the members of the congregation listened to Dr. Speer deliver his farewell address from 10 until 10:15 o'clock last night over the NBC-Bline network and by short wave.

A closing number was played by the orchestra with benediction by Rev. Lindsay.

A business meeting of the Ladies Aid society was held preceding the dinner.

November 3, 1937

Dear Helen Barnes:

Will you be surprised to have me acknowledge your good letter to Dr. Speer? He and Mrs. Speer are now living at their home in Wakeville, Connecticut, and I happen to know that he is away this week on some speaking engagements and will not be home until Friday. He asks that we open all of his mail that comes addressed here for sometimes others can reply to it. This time I can send you the Radio Address and then forward the letter to Dr. Speer telling him that I have acknowledged it and sent the address.

We can scarcely realize even yet that Dr. Speer has left the offices and often feel that he is just away on some speaking trip. We have assured him that he will always be most welcome and we look for him whenever we know he is coming this way.

It is good to see your signature and I knew your writing when I saw it on the envelope.

With all good wishes,

Faithfully,

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

November 9, 1937

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D. D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

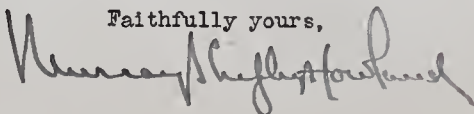
My dear Dr. Speer:

My addition to the multitude of letters that you have received at the conclusion of your active relation with our Board of Foreign Missions is but another drop to the overflow of the appreciation, admiration and affection that is coming to you. Allow me to say with utmost sincerity how greatly you have blessed us all with the quality of your faith, your poise and unwavering devotion to our Lord and Master.

The very first sermon I preached when I was still an undergraduate was a very frankly attributed repetition of an address you gave at Northfield when I was attending one of the college conferences. It was preached in the East Lake Presbyterian Church in Wilmington when George Trull was there as minister. All through the years you have been an inspiration to me in many ways. May the fruitfulness of your life continue through long years to come.

Will you be good enough to extend to Mrs. Speer also my congratulations and greetings?

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Murray Shepherd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'M'.

628 So. Mason Street
Fort Collins, Colo.

October 12 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer, Sec.
Pres. Bd. Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Ave. New York City

MS
—

My dear Dr. Speer:

Mrs. McDowell and I greatly appreciate the warm congratulations you have sent us with your good wishes for now and always. We are comfortably settled in Mrs. McDowell's cozy bungalow. It is too soon to say what the effect of the altitude will be. Neither am I able to say that that I am in a normal state of health but that there has been improvement is evident. I am sorry there has not been such improvement as to justify my doing full work in the distribution of the book. My doctor here has warned me to avoid fatigue, both physical and mental.

I hope soon to be in communication again with Mrs. Christie. It is a comfort to me to have in Mrs. McDowell one who is able to fill my deficiencies. She is an indefatigable worker and her interest in behalf of our book never flags.

We are very happy and look forward to the winter season without dread and in anticipation of an interesting program of reading.

I aware that the time is short that we are to have you as an active official force on the Board and I look forward to the day of separation with regret, and I must say with some sighing. But The MASTER who is over all still abides in his Church and not passively but as its Head and naught can avail aist Him. And I know too that you, though not officially associated with our Board, will not be silent nor inactive.

May you renew your strength for the new tasks, and may you be spared to the Church yet for many years in the hand of our Lord for counsel and for labors.

May I use this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation in all that you have been to me personally throughout these years as lead leader and friend. And this includes, as not the least of your benefactions what you have done for my people again and again in the use of your influence and of your private means. May our Master reward you out of the riches of his grace.

Gratefully and affectionately yours,

E. McDowell



500 ROOMS EACH WITH BATH



HOTEL WOLVERINE

ELIZABETH STREET EAST
AT WOODWARD AVE.
DETROIT

M2
—

October 30, 1937.

My dear Dr. Speer,

I want you to know what a thrill it gave me to hear your address over the radio last night at Indianapolis, where I was speaking at a supper in the First Church. They had a splendid program brought to a fitting climax by your inspiring talk. It was thrilling to think that it was being heard all over the U.S. by hundreds of churches and by many others in their homes. I suppose no other missionary address has ever been heard by so large a number of people.

Everywhere I have been this past month there seems to be a real interest awakened by the centennial celebration, and we missionaries are greatly encouraged by the responses we have had. A large group of us are speaking in Detroit churches tomorrow, some 17 in all.

Thank you so much for the note you wrote me in appreciation of the memorial book, which I duly received.

With very warmest regards to you and Mrs. Speer, I am

Very cordially yours,

Cady W. Allen

MZ Otter

Dear Bro. Speer, Oct. 30, 1937.

I write to extend to you and Mrs. Speer my very sincere greetings, and hearty congratulations, as you look back upon an accomplished life-work and look forward to years of unofficial service in the Master's cause.

It is given to but few to render a service such as yours has been; and to plant the "good seed" where it will continue to bear fruit for years to come in all parts of the world-field. I rejoice with you in this

splendid accomplishment:
^{and} I wish for you both many
years in which to en-
joy the fruitage resulting
from your consecrated
lives, as you have sweet
fellowship with men
and women all over
the world whose vision
of the divine realities
owes much of its clear-
ness and transforming
power to the influ-
ence which went
out from your own;
whether by personal
contact or through the
printed message.

You may not realize
as fully as recent ex-
perience makes me real-
ize the solidarity of the
life accomplishments of
two people who seem
to be engaged in their
separate forms of work,
and yet, because of their
essential oneness as
man and wife, each is
an indispensable fac-
tor in all that the
other does.

It is my deepened un-
derstanding of this
that leads me to
write as I do in
this note.

I know that the deepest satisfaction of the greater command of your time which will now be yours will be found in the opportunity it affords for doing things together, and thus growing more completely one, as you have sweet fellowship for whole days at a time and not just "between times."

May yours be a generous allotment of such years!

I am here in Ottawa as a stop gap; having come

from Des Moines where I
am to assist in the "Kermis"
which Central Church is put-
ting on next week.

The gap was caused by
the inability to get your
radio message on the
"blue network" here in
this part of the state, as
it was "smothered" by
the more powerful
stations of the "red
network" which domi-
nate this region.

It was a disappoint-
ment to me not to
hear your message:
but perhaps it was "more
blessed to give than
to receive" this time.

There were over a hundred
earnest men and women
present and it was a
real joy to give facts
about the progress of
the Kingdom in war torn China.

I am hoping to go to
Ningpo in the spring.

My passage is taken
tentatively for Nov. 19th.

I court the help of
your prayers that the
door may open to me,
and my mission ^{be} made
a help to some who
are overburdened with
sorrow and anxiety.

Again I wish you all
joy and blessings.

Your sincere friend
J. E. Showmaker.

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
166 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

WESTERN AREA
228 McALLISTER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
THE CENTENNIAL YEAR
1937

Oct. 30th, 1937

SECRETARIES

FRANK W. BIBLE
WESTON T. JOHNSON
MARCIA KERR

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Rockledge,
Lakeville, Conn.

W.T.J.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Last night in the First Presbyterian Church of Napa, fifty miles north of San Francisco, I shared in the program of the Centennial supper. The social hall was filled with members of the church who had assembled to hear your address over the radio. The pastor had installed one of the latest models of the Philco. The reception was perfect. The only thing lacking was the visualization of the speaker. We did so much enjoy your message which, as usual, carried the sure certain note of reality. It thrilled me last night as it did nearly forty years ago, when, for the first time, I heard you at a Student Volunteer convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

I trust that you may be spared for many many years to give increasingly your message of hope and of victory through Christ. May the blessing of God and the presence of His Spirit be with you and Mrs. Speer now and always.

Very cordially yours,

Weston T. Johnson

WTJ/EL

Pub. Date

Vol.

Page

Oct 29, 1900

Handwritten notes on the left side, possibly including a name or title.

Walter ...

1900

Faint handwritten text, possibly a name or title.

Main body of handwritten text, appearing to be a letter or a detailed note. The text is somewhat faded and difficult to decipher.

Bottom section of handwritten text, possibly a signature or a closing note.

1877
The first meeting was
held on the 1st of
June -

Chosen by the community 053(3)

FAREWELL HEARD BY PRESBYTERIANS

Centennial Diners Receive
Dr. Speer's Broadcast.

World-Wide Hook-up Carries
Message on Continuing
Need for Missions.

"Every reason which was valid a century ago when foreign missions were opened is valid today with even deeper sanctions and more tragic significance today. The gospel is unchanged. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever," came the words of Dr. Robert E. Speer over the radio to an audience of 200 assembled at dinner Friday night at the Second Presbyterian church.

The "centennial dinner" was being held in celebration of the close of the first 100 years of foreign missions supported by the Presbyterian denomination through its own national board. Similar dinners were held at the same time in all branches of the church throughout the United States, in territories of the United States and in sixteen foreign countries where mission stations are maintained.

World Hook-Up Carries Address.

Dr. Speer, who for forty-six years has been serving as the executive secretary of the national foreign missions board, made his farewell address to the denomination, his voice being carried to the dinner groups around the globe by world-wide radio hook-up. He has been made secretary-emeritus of the board to which he had devoted nearly half a century of service. Dr. Speer spoke in a clear, strong voice and was easily understood except for a period of electrical interference.

Blair F. Finley, elder of Second church, paid a tribute to Dr. Speer whom he knew when they were both boys in Pennsylvania. He sketched the degree, honors, offices and service of Dr. Speer.

Recentness of missions in Korea was emphasized by W. A. Venable, former missionary to that country.

J. B. Rike, president of the Men's club of Second church, was toastmaster.

Mission Work Summarized.

Attorney Will F. Chamlee summarized the achievements of the century of foreign missions and recalled the list of disasters, wars, both at home and in the foreign field; epidemics of disease and financial panics which had taken place during the century.

Dr. Robert M. Stimson, pastor, gave an outline of the work done while Dr. Speer headed the foreign mission board. Mrs. Stimson read Bible passages instructing the church to take the gospel to all lands.

Mrs. C. V. Brown was program chairman. Musical selections were furnished by Mrs. W. E. May, Miss Helen Waters and Miss Eugenia Woods.

A birthday cake with lighted candles was presented to Mrs. J. C. Fryar with congratulations upon her eighty-second birthday anniversary. Lydia Porter and Bailey Stimson making the presentation.

By Mrs. C. V. Brown

Large Crowd At Presby Community Meet Last Night

A large crowd was present at First Presbyterian church Friday night to attend a community program, features of which were moving pictures of the European tour last summer of Attorney and Mrs. E. J. Myers and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Blicke and a radio address by Dr. Robert E. Speer, past president of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

The pictures were shown by Mr. Myers and J. H. Blicke, son of W. A. Blicke, and preceded the radio address, which was heard over a radio furnished by the Ulmer Electric company.

Dr. Speer pointed out that the Christian message of a sovereign and loving God who has come to bring men to Christ is the one road to peace.

"When we talk today of a world community, the one expression which we find of it is the missionary enterprise which has laid the foundations in the Christian churches which it has founded in every land," Dr. Speer asserted.

The prominent churchman, in his radio talk heard by thousands throughout the nation, said that for more than a century the Christian churches of America have carried on their work of world service and world evangelization.

DINNER FOR
"GOOD AND
UNCONTAMINATED
FELLOWSHIP"
WITH
DR. ROBERT E. SPEER



Lr. Paul J. Braisted and guest

Dr. Frank T. Cartwright

Dr. A. V. Casselman

Miss Eliza P. Cobb

Mr. and Mrs. James S. Cushman

Miss Ethel Cutler

Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Decker

Mrs. A. P. de Sanna

Bishop Paul de Schweinitz

Dr. J. L. Dodds and guest

Rev. W. E. Doughty

Miss Helen Eklund

Mr. Charles H. Fahs

Dr. and Mrs. John H. Finley

Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Fleming

Dr. and Mrs. James H. Franklin

Dr. B. A. Garside

Mr. P. L. Gillett

Miss Rebecca W. Griest

Miss Hollis Hering

Rev. E. K. Higdon

Mrs. Samuel Guy Inman

Miss Helen Kittredge

Dr. and Mrs. Curtis Lee Laws

Dr. Charles Tudor Lober

Mr. William P. McCulloch

Miss Janet S. McKay

Mr. M. P. Moller, Jr.

Dr. Leslie B. Moss

Dr. Eric M. North

Dr. Juan Orts-Gonzalez

Bishop Robert L. Paddock and guests

Mr. Delavan L. Pierson

Lr. F. M. Potter

Miss Eleanor Purvis

Dr. J. C. Robbins

Mrs. Philip M. Rossman

Dr. T. H. P. Sailer

Dr. and Mrs. George T. Scott

Miss Gertrude Schultz and guest

Dr. Luman J. Shafer

Mrs. E. H. Silverthorn

Mr. Frank V. Slack and guest

Dr. Robert E. Speer

Miss Esther Strong

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston

Miss Florence G. Tyler

Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Vaughan

Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Warnshuis

Rev. Jesse R. Wilson

Miss Mildred Winston

General Mission Board

OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
INCORPORATED

Elgin, Illinois

22 SOUTH STATE ST.

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"BRETHREN"

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MISS AHETTA C. MOW
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RHODES
DALLAS CENTER, IA

October 26, 1937.

OCT 28 1937

C. B. U.

Mr. Leslie B. Moss, Secretary
Foreign Missions Conference
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Leslie:

Your letter received this morning referring to the dinner of good fellowship with Dr. Speer on November 13th. I am sure nothing would afford me greater pleasure than to meet with the friends of Dr. Speer on that occasion but I fear the distance, with other duties, will make it impossible to plan to do so. Therefore I am enclosing the card indicating that I will not be able to attend. ✓

I need not tell you that I am one of the ardent admirers of Dr. Speer's great soul and mind. I have read most of his books long before I knew him personally. His emphasis and interpretation have always challenged me and I feel today that I have much in my life that I owe to his books. Since learning to know him and hearing him personally, many times, in later years, this admiration has been increased. I do not know of any man whom I should be more pleased and could more sincerely honor for his contribution to world Christianity and myself, than Dr. Speer. How I would like to be present.

I want to acknowledge with many thanks the notice of the next Foreign Missions Conference to be held at Toronto. After our Board meeting next week we may be able to report their action on the budget, delegates and other things.

With our sincere good wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

Chas. D. Bohsack

CDB:P

National Board
Young Women's Christian Associations
of the United States of America

600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Cable Address: Emissarius, New York

Telephone: PLaza 3-4700

143

November 10, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Speer,

I have received an invitation to attend the dinner which is to be given in your honor here at "600" on November 13. Unfortunately, I shall be in Chicago at that time and so cannot be present on that happy occasion, but I want to take this opportunity to tell you how sorry I am that I must miss this, and also to tell you how thrilling it has been to hear and read the tributes to your years of service which are being made on all sides.

I am sure that the years ahead will be no less full than those that are past, but you will perhaps have the opportunity of choosing among all the opportunities offered you the work that you care most to undertake.

We of the Young Women's Christian Association miss both you and Mrs. Speer and feel that New York is not quite the same place without you on Gramercy Park. There are innumerable times when it seems to me I must come around there and discuss some of my problems with Mrs. Speer as I have done frequently during the last few years.

Cordially yours,

Anna V. Rice

Anna V. Rice
General Secretary

147

The United Church of Canada

Board of Foreign Missions

299 QUEEN ST. WEST
TORONTO 2, CANADA

CABLE ADDRESSES:
WESLEYANA, TORONTO
BUTEROS, TORONTO

RECEIVED
OCT 28 1937
C. R. O.

October 27, 1937.

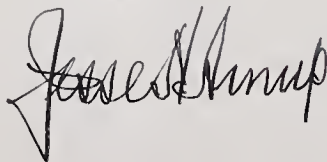
AN, D.D.
TRONG, D.D.
HUP, D.D.

Dr. L. B. Moss,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Moss:-

It was good of you to invite me and Dr. Armstrong to the little spread you are having for Dr. Speer. There is no one whom we more greatly love and honour. We should love to be there but circumstances make that impossible. Please represent us in your own inimitable way.

Sincerely yours,



JHA*S.

Received at Flatiron Bldg., New York City
NBH52 13=WP BALTIMORE MD 13 920A
LESLIE B MOSS=
156 FIFTH AVE=

1937 NOV 13 AM 9 52

M6
SORRY CANNOT ATTEND SPEER DINNER ACCOUNT KOLLER FUNERAL
TODAY BEST WISHES TO SPEER=
GEORGE DRACH-

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172 LONTNER AVE., TORONTO
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TORONTO

122 South Drive,
Toronto, 5.....Nov.....1st.....1937.

RECEIVED
NOV 3 1937
O. R. C.

TMB

*100
M.A.*

Mr. Leslie B. Moss,
Room 1101,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Moss:

Please find enclosed a small contribution towards the "token of affection" for Dr. Speer. Nothing that is given him can adequately express our esteem for him. Sorry I can't be present in person. Here's wishing you all a jolly good time.

So glad you are coming to Toronto for the Conference. We shall feel it an honour to welcome you.

Sincerely yours,

Bessie MacMurchy

Treasurer.

E. H. Wallace

E. Speer

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ms

November 12, 1937

Reverend Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
c/o The Board of Foreign Missions,
Presbyterian Church of the United States,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

It was with very strange feelings that I learned of your retirement from your official relationship to the Board of Foreign Missions. I hope that this will only give you more freedom for your many other interests in the work of the Church, and particularly in its activities in the mission field. We have long looked to you for wise and inspiring leadership. I rejoice that we can still hope for it for many years to come.

Like so many of my generation in college, I owe a very great debt to you personally. I listened to you whenever I had the opportunity, and read your books. They helped me greatly in deepening my devotion to our Lord and His mission. I am glad to have this opportunity of thanking you from the bottom of my heart.

Will you be good enough to give my warmest regards to Mrs. Speer.

I remain

Yours very sincerely,

E. H. Wallace

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

RECEIVED
NOV 8 1937
O. R. O.

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812 SUMMIT AVENUE, MT. VERNON, IOWA

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3939 WARWICK BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO.

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MRS CHARLES WESLEY FLINT
630 PIEDMONT AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA, GA.

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3511 ROOMAN STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON D. C.

TREASURER, MRS J. WESLEY MASLAND
6701 NORTH BROAD STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA
ASSISTANT TREASURER, MISS CAROLINE PECKHAM



SECRETARY, GENERAL OFFICE
MISS RUTH RANSOM
ROOM 710, 150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS, FORMIS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE, WATKINS 9-7090

SECRETARY, FOREIGN DEPARTMENT
MRS. FRANKLIN REED
619 CARLTON ROAD, WESTFIELD, N. J.

SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT
MRS. F. H. SHEETS
1930 SHERIDAN ROAD, EVANSTON, ILL.

November 6, 1937

MG

Dr. Leslie B. Moss,
156 - 5th Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Moss:

Bishop Nicholson and I are very happy to have the invitation to attend the dinner in honor of Dr. Speer. We deeply regret that it will not be possible for us to be present. If you should have opportunity to do so, will you not extend to Dr. Speer our very heartiest felicitations, and assure him of our sense of deep gratitude that the Christian church has so long benefited by his dedication to its interest.

In all the circle of remarkable people whom it has been our privilege to know as friends, we know of no one who has brought greater talents, more profound wisdom nor deeper consecration to this missionary task than has Dr. Speer. His own rich spiritual life has been an inspiration to us as it has to all who have had the joy of working with him through these years. Indeed, we join in the regret which all of his associates must feel as he relinquishes his official responsibilities, but we know that his influence and work will live on throughout the world in the years that lie ahead. We pray God's choicest blessing on him, and hope that many years of effective service along less strenuous lines may be his portion.

Most sincerely yours,

Evelyn Riley Nicholson

(Mrs. Thomas Nicholson)

TN*B

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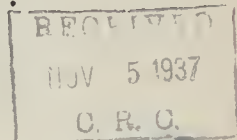
The Board of Foreign Missions, Inc.

OF THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA

[Evangelical and Reformed Church]

— Executive Secretary: —
REV. F. A. GOETSCH, D.D.
1720 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

November 3, 1937.



Dr. Leslie B. Moss,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Moss:-

I have your letter of the 21st relative to the friendly dinner with Dr. Robert E. Speer on November 13th. I am glad to be remembered with this information, and I can assure you that had I been free I would have been inclined to come all the way to New York from Saint Louis to give expression to my esteem and love for Dr. Speer.

I regret that I am already booked for those dates. On the evening of November 11th and the morning of the 12th I am booked in Indianapolis, on the evening of the 12th I am booked for Saint Louis, and on the morning of the 14th I am to be in Bloomington, Illinois. Because of these engagements it will be impossible for me to be present. I shall, however, be present with you in spirit as you gather together as friends of Dr. Robert E. Speer.

Although not attending the dinner, I desire to participate in the token of affection which you are planning to present to Dr. Speer. Since the token is to be purchased with part of the sum realized from the suggested \$1.25 contribution of all who attend the dinner, I am sending you my check for this amount. I feel sure that all who participate, as well as those who like myself cannot participate, would gladly have sent a larger amount if that had been permitted, for I am sure that our affection and admiration of Dr. Speer is not measured by the amount of our present contribution.

With kind regards to you and Mrs. Moss, I am,

Sincerely yours,

F. A. Goetsch

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF YOUNG MENS CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

CORPORATE NAME
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

347 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

October 27, 1937

RECEIVED
OCT 29 1937
C. R. U.

MS

Mr. Leslie B. Moss,
Foreign Missions Conference,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Leslie:

I am very sorry that I shall be in the South on November 13th when friends and admirers of Dr. Robert E. Speer meet in a testimonial dinner to him. I belong to that company of American college men who more than a quarter of a century ago fell under the spell of "Speer and Mott." Dr. Speer's life and messages played a determining role in my life during those years when I was making major decisions with respect to my future. It is a real disappointment, therefore, to me that I cannot join with other friends in the dinner which you are arranging.

Yours very sincerely,

Eugene E. Barnett

EEB:M

Eugene E. Barnett

NK265 29=NEWYORK NY 13 452P

DR ROBERT E SPEER, CARE LESLIE B MOSS=

135 EAST 52 ST=

REGRET ABSENCE FROM THIS ASSEMBLY OF YOUR ADMIRING FRIENDS
PLEASE ACCEPT FOR THE PAST WARM APPRECIATION, FOR THE
FUTURE A WISH FOR INCREASING SATISFACTIONS BEGINNING WITH
THIS AUSPICIOUS FELLOWSHIP=

ELIZA P COBB.

The United Church of Canada

Board of Foreign Missions

299 QUEEN ST. WEST

TORONTO 2, CANADA

CABLE ADDRESSES:

WESLEYANA, TORONTO

BUTEROS, TORONTO

AIRMAN

REV. J. E. HUGHSON, D.D.

SECRETARIES

REV. A. E. ARMSTRONG, D.D.

REV. JESSE H. ARNUP, D.D.

November 12, 1937.

716

Dr. Leslie B. Moss,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Leslie:

How I would like to be with you on Saturday evening for the Fellowship Dinner which you are planning in honour of the greatest of all missionary Secretaries, Robert Speer! What an influence he has been in the lives of literally tens of thousands of Christian people of many races! Can we ever fully estimate what he has meant to many of us? Some of us were talking the other day of what he meant to us when we were students when, by his personality and his compelling challenge, he led us to consecrate our lives to the service of Christ's kingdom throughout the world.

My best wishes for a very delightful evening, which, as Dr. Speer says, should not be in any sense a farewell or in the nature of obituary obsequies but "a simple time of goodwill and uncontaminated fellowship."

Sincerely yours,

Berk.

AEA: SS

CORNELIUS H. PATTON
749 FARMINGTON AVENUE
WEST HARTFORD, CONN.

W6

Nov 4

RECEIVED

NOV 6 1937

37 C. R. U.

Dear Mr. Moss -

I am glad to know that you are
having that dinner for Dr. Spear.
I would love to attend, but the
date is prohibitive as I have a
Sunday morning engagement the
next day. I shall be with you
"in spirit" and I doubt if any
present will have a more sincere
and grateful appreciation of Dr. Spear
personally and of all he has done
for the cause of world-wide missions.

Cordially Yours

Cornelius H. Patton

RECEIVED

E H M C C

NOV 6 1937

U. R. C.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. : ~~107 00~~ ^{ma}

Mr. Mc. Emmel and I
are very sorry that we can
not attend the dinner
given for Dr. & Mrs. Speer
Saturday evening
November thirtieth

Mr. Mc. Emmel will
be at the Bishop's meeting
in Indiana at that
time and I will be in
Ohio

We both esteem Dr.
Speer very highly and
have been counting his
admirable friends for
many years. It is fitting
that his friends should

gather together to pay
tribute to his great service
to the cause of missions
and his help in all the
causes making for the
betterment of mankind.

Will you express our
deep regret that we
cannot be at the
dinner.

I am enclosing a
small check as we
wish to be included
in the gift.

Very sincerely
Eva H. McConnell

Nov. 5, 1937

MS
Oct. 6, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Speer:

The South China Mission in its annual meeting took an action which it is my privilege to transmit to you.

"It is with deep regret that we realize that Dr. Robert E. Speer next month retires from the Board. What his brilliant mind and consecrated life have accomplished for Christ on the foreign field and at home cannot easily be expressed. Through him more young men and women have been influenced to come to the Mission field than through any other one living man. His wise, far-seeing statesmanship has guided our Board for forty-three years. We do not see how we can spare him but we are thankful that his friendship and influence will still continue. To him this Mission sends special greeting."

I need add nothing more to the tender regard contained in the above words.

Very sincerely,

Gertrude Hill
Secretary.

Alpine, Tennessee,

November 16, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Spser,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

hg

Dear Dr. Spser:

Your Centennial Broadcast was so helpful to us that we determined to write to thank you for it. We sat before the fire in the manse--just two or three of us under the National Board--and discussed certain problems that were particularly puzzling in the mission work here. It must be admitted that we were a little discouraged. Then you began to speak to us as to millions of others, and your words just hit the spot. I became a little bit selfishly proud of a relative of mine who was in China as a foreign missionary during the Boxer Rebellion, but who, with his wife, died of cholera shortly afterwards, leaving eight children. (This was George Cornwell, mother's brother.)

Your voice also called up memories of your son, who used to speak with much the same cadences and intonations when he was our chaplain at Lafayette. He and his wife, with their little children, were influential in leading me to try to be a Christian minister. His words and his Christian home life inspired us all.

We are very thankful that God helped you and your family to help so many of us during the long years of your service.

Respectfully yours,

Bernard Taylor

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

113 WEST FIFTH STREET
JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS

MERVYN ELROY MOSS
MINISTER

November 8, 1937

CHRISTIANITY TODAY
Samuel G. Craig, Editor
525 Locust Street
Philadelphia
Pa.

Dear Mr. Craig:

I just received a marked copy of CHRISTIANITY TODAY.

I believe you are misguided in your judgment in finding fault with Dr. Robert E. Speer's theology. I know he lives The Life, and the fruits of that life are more and more demonstrated to be the fruits of the spirit mentioned by Paul in Galatians 5:22.

I would like to believe that more and more of our ministers in the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., as well as more and more of the laymen, could practice the Christian faith as well as Dr. Robert E. Speer has.

If CHRISTIANITY TODAY has nothing more inspiring to write about than to criticize one of the leading Christians and laymen of our beloved church, I am not interested in receiving any further copies of it.

Sincerely yours,

Mervyn E. Moss.

MEM/jb

Dear Dr. Speer,

I hesitated a week before sending this letter. It might be wiser to let such things pass unnoticed, but I think differently about it just now.

Mervyn E. Moss

THE DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA AND WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
80 West Street, New York City.

WILLIAM S. JENNEY,
Vice-President and General Counsel.

Nov. 12: 1937 -

My dear Bob -

I thank you for your kind
note of sympathy. About all
the happiness of my life was
in my intimate association
with my beloved wife throughout
forty three years. Now I wish
I might share your faith!

My thing that will keep
me carrying on is the
knowledge that I can be of

help to others - Just a little
to the cause to which you
have devoted your life and
for which you have the respect
and affection of all who
know you.

Sincerely
W. J. Miller

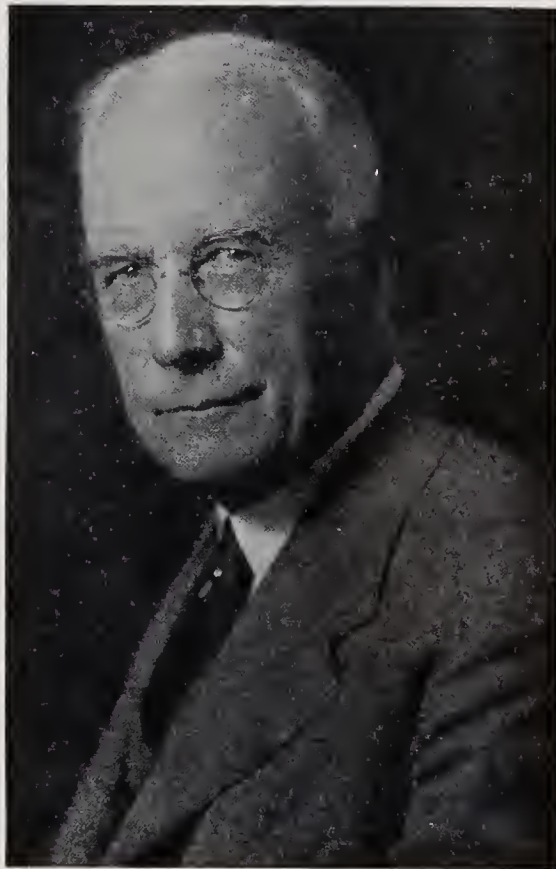
Dr. Robert E. Speer Retires

IN SEPTEMBER, 1937, Robert E. Speer completed forty-six years of service with the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., and, having reached the age of seventy on the tenth of that month, retired from the senior secretaryship. During this half century of service, Dr. Speer has provided a unique leadership for foreign missions in this country, approximated perhaps only by that of John R. Mott. We of the Southern Presbyterian Church have always looked up to Dr. Speer with confidence and loving admiration, and he has often been present in our conferences and our conventions. We confidently look forward to the next fifteen or twenty years, which we learn Dr. Speer plans to devote to the writing of a series of books, as one of the most fruitful periods of his life.

We quote some paragraphs from a tribute to Dr. Speer, written by William Hiram Foulkes and published in the *Presbyterian Tribune*:

His Christian integrity stands out preëminent among his other qualities. No other Christian in our generation, certainly none within the pale of the Presbyterian Church, looms up so large as a tower of moral and spiritual strength as does Dr. Speer. His life, which is an open book among us, has been builded upon the immortal Rock. There is something truly majestic in the solidity of his character. For half a century and more men have trusted him and have not found him wanting. He is a twentieth-century Christian stalwart, a giant tree in the forest with his roots deep down, and, like the One whom he has so devotedly served, he has become a rock in a weary land to multitudes of wayfaring souls. The exacting honesty of Dr. Speer's mental processes is both a rebuke and an inspiration to those whose thinking has been all too easy-going. . . . How many times a General Assembly has waited to hear what Dr. Speer would have to say, and when it heard, it was satisfied to heed!

Dr. Speer's industry is nothing less than prodigious and his energy indefatigable. The voluminous correspondence he has carried on, all these years, with the far-flung missionary force of the Church, and with multitudes of persons in the home land, as well as with Christian leaders around the world, has required a remarkable complex of qualities—insight into human nature, wide-ranging special interests, mastery of administrative fidelity, considerateness of others, and unwearied spirit. No other leader in



Cut used by courtesy of *Women and Missions*

Robert Elliott Speer

the Christian Church of our day has wrought himself, selflessly at that, more inextricably into the fabric of our Christian thought and enterprise than he. . . .

Here he stands, to go in and out among us, please God, for years to come, foursquare to all the winds, monumental mind, conscience like a razor blade, lover of truth and beauty, lover of men for Christ's sake, humble and bold, a modern incarnation of the spirit of the galaxy of "saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs" to whom "to live is Christ" and to whom to die, with so glorious a harvest on the other side, will be deathless gain.

The United Church of Canada

Board of Foreign Missions

299 QUEEN ST. WEST
TORONTO 2, CANADA

November 25, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

WA

My dear Dr. Speer,

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of our Board of Foreign Missions I was instructed to convey to you our sense of gratitude to God for the long and devoted service you have rendered as Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. It is impossible for us adequately to appraise your leadership in the foreign missionary enterprise of the Christian Church. Your judgment has always been characterized by sanity. You have constantly exhibited unswerving loyalty to the principles of our Christian Faith. You have inspired us by the example you have set us of devotion to the person of Jesus Christ. By your voice and by your pen you have challenged us to walk with God, to do His will, to listen to Him and to consecrate ourselves wholeheartedly to the interests of His Kingdom.

There are many of us who will always gladly, as we have frequently done, testify to what you have meant in our lives when we were students and through more recent years.

As Foreign Mission Secretary your high ideals have led us in other Boards to regard your Board as one to be trusted and followed in all matters concerning the extension of the Kingdom of God in lands beyond our own. Our missionaries have read your books and articles and have listened to your addresses not only with pleasure but with great profit. They would wish to join us in acclaiming you as the most outstanding missionary secretary which any of the Protestant Churches of the world has ever had.

We thank God for your life and for the fact that your health continues such that we may look forward to many years of gracious Christian influence as you continue to speak and to write and to make yourself available for that wise and friendly counsel which you have always been so willing to give.

With best wishes and kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A. E. Armstrong

The Mosaic

December 29, 1937

THE M O S A I C

Robert E. Speer: Servant of the Whole Church

The retirement of Dr. Robert E. Speer from active service as senior secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, coincident with the centennial celebration of the Board, was marked by a national radio message in which he interpreted the significance of the missionary movement. Nearly seventy broadcasting stations united in carrying his voice to every corner of the country. It was one of the largest networks ever afforded to a distinctively religious presentation and we know of no voice which more fully merited such an audience.

Dr. Speer's service is one which has known no denominational bounds. Next to his missionary passion has been his passion for Christian unity. During four critical years, immediately following the collapse of the Interchurch World Movement, he was president of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and no one has ever been a more trusted interdenominational leader. His rugged Christian character, his triumphant faith even in the face of great personal suffering, his devotion to Christ and His world-wide cause, and his gracious and reconciling spirit have given him an influence as wide as the whole Church.

While Dr. Speer has retired from administrative responsibilities, he has not—we rejoice to say—retired from active service and leadership. More important, he has not retired from exercising the influence of his Christ-like personality. From such influence there is no retirement!

Dr. Speer delivered the anniversary address before the Society for Propagating the Gospel (S. P. G.), at Bethlehem, Pa., Sunday, November 6, 1932.

Dr. Speer's address was a ringing challenge to every man, woman and child present in the large audience to follow the leadership and commands of Jesus Christ. It was characterized by convincing logic and unescapable conclusions, in language so clear and plain that every one could understand. One of his most striking declarations as to the effect that he had ceased to think of Christianity as a religion. He had learned to define religion as man seeking after God. Christianity was far greater, therefore, than any known religion, it was the direct revelation of God, by God Himself, through Jesus Christ, to man. It was this that gave it the authority and the power to conquer the world. Christianity is not a search, it's a message It is the only religion worthy to conquer the world; not by a severe and militant regime, but by the constraining power of the love of Christ.

THE SHADYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AMBERSON AVENUE AND WESTMINSTER PLACE

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

HUGH THOMSON KERR
HAROLD ALDEN DALZELL

December 31, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer
"Rockledge"
Lakeville, Connecticut

My dear Father Abraham:

Your Christmas card was a great joy to me and to Mrs. Kerr and the children. It recalled one of the happiest memories of life and one that I would like to repeat. How quickly the years speed away.

You have had a wonderful year full of honor and I trust joy. Such a year as is given to few men to enjoy and I should think that you could live on it for a decade at least.

To say that I miss you at the Board is to say all too little. I have not yet picked up someone on the staff to whom I can write in confidence and criticism. I only trust that everything will move on as it has in the past towards the fulfillment of your highest dreams and mine.

We are all well here. Thomson is home from Louisville and is in the midst of his theological studies. Did you see his article in Religion and Life on Karl Heim? Donald is in Emmanuel College, Toronto, his first year in theology and is enthusiastic about the atmosphere and the work.

I hope that the Christmas season was a happy one for you all and that the New Year will bring joy and blessing.

I will be interested in seeing your new book. It will be an intimate and devotional study that ought to bring great help to many of us.

Very sincerely yours,
Robert E. Speer

Dec. 13, 1937.

Rev. R. E. Robert E. Speer, D.D., LL.D.
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
N.Y.

My Dear Dr. Speer;

I notice that you are now honorably retired from your long and splendid service with the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board. I greatly appreciate the fine tribute of honor given you by the present members of the Board. Too much can not easily be said re the wonderful ability that God has given you and also the unique opportunities both of which you by God's grace have made exceptionally fine use of. It is good to have known you in our earlier days, but it has not been my privilege to have the lengthened contacts with you that I, like every other one who ever met you at all, desired. Yourself and all that you have done has been an inspiration to me through all the years. I thank God that you can retire with your powers all in tact, and with sufficient physical strength to yet be able to carry out by His grace the many things I know you are still wanting to do. You have written so much I know we shall see still more coming from your able brain, consecrated heart and skillful pen.

I have it in my heart, in all kindness, and sympathy, to make a suggestion. Tho I feel the least worthy to even think of such a thing, and may also stagger woefully at the attempt, I have faith to believe that you will consider it prayerfully, as I make it in the face of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

you publish a clear statement of your faith My Suggestion to you is; that now before you go on to writing more books, In lieu of the many doubts that have been published, concerning your faith in the essentials fundamental doctrines or truths taught in the Bible, such as are necessary for salvation. You must certainly be aware that there are many most honest and consecrated christians throughout the world who entertain grave doubts about you along this line. Would it not be to the praise of God, and the glory of Jesus Christ and a blessing upon your good name if you would now make an unmistakably clear statement that the plain man as well as the learned can understand. Then every body would know for a certainty just what our beloved Dr. Speer believes.

It is not my purpose here to mention any particular criticism whatever nor do I mean that you should undertake to answer every criticism that has been published, not that; but I do think that you owe it to your many friends all over the world, and to God that you clear up the matter as to exactly what you do believe. It would certainly be to the glory of God and the comfort of many of your friends, who have been perplexed and indeed heart broken over the published criticisms of statements which you are quoted as having made. This I feel sure could all be cleared away with a few clear statements as mentioned above. And what a joy that would bring to the world to be assured that your faith is what it ought to be.

Mrs. Swallen joins me in best wishes to you and Mrs. Speer with prayer for God's richest blessings upon you both throughout your retired years.

Very Sincerely

Yours in Christ

Rom. 14: 17, 18.

W. L. Swallen

RALPH C. WELLS
Chairman
CHARLES E. PATTON
Vice-Chairman and Secretary
MARGARET A. FRAME
Secretary
EDWIN E. WALLINE
Secretary

THE CHINA COUNCIL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
519 THE MISSIONS BUILDING
SHANGHAI

CABLE ADDRESS: LINK, SHANGHAI
THE MISSIONS CODE
TELEPHONE: 10473

December 6, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

In behalf of the Presbyterian missionaries in China I count it a privilege to convey to you the following resolution:

"On the occasion of the honorable retirement of Dr. Robert E. Speer from his position as a Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, China Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of his outstanding service to the cause of foreign missions, not only within our own church but also in the church at large.

"Dr. Speer was for many years the Secretary for certain of the China Missions, and in that capacity and through several extended visits for counsel came into a very close personal relationship to the China field.

"While we leave to others to speak of the great gifts and the achievement of Dr. Speer, we wish to join with numberless other friends and well-wishers, many of whom are now upon the foreign field because of his influence, in sending to him an expression of our love and esteem. We with them pray that he will be able to continue for many years to devote himself to the missionary enterprise in which he has so notably engaged and in which he has been for nearly half a century one of the great creative personalities."

With cordial good wishes for the new year,

Sincerely yours,

E. E. Walline



★ MERRY CHRISTMAS ★

(Temporary Address)

633 Cleveland Ave. Oakland Calif.

Dec 21st 1937

Mr Robt E. Speer D.D. 57
156 Fifth Ave. N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer.

This letter should have been written about two months ago, but the feeling that I could not write anything worthy of the occasion has led me to hesitate.

Is it congratulations or condolences which are due at this time?

It was with great regret that we left China nearly a year ago, for our retirement, because our work did not seem to be done. There was so much to do and so few to do it. Our force in the country (Chinese) seemed to be of a better quality, and it looked as if the time had come when we might go forward.

*Robert E. Speer: Servant
of the Whole Church*

The retirement of Dr. Robert E. Speer from active service as senior secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, coincident with the centennial celebration of the Board, was marked by a national radio message in which he interpreted the significance of the missionary movement. Nearly seventy broadcasting stations united in carrying his voice to every corner of the country. It was one of the largest networks ever afforded to a distinctively religious presentation and we know of no voice which more fully merited such an audience.

Dr. Speer's service is one which has known no denominational bounds. Next to his missionary passion has been his passion for Christian unity. During four critical years, immediately following the collapse of the Interchurch World Movement, he was president of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and no one has ever been a more trusted interdenominational leader. His rugged Christian character, his triumphant faith even in the face of great personal suffering, his devotion to Christ and His world-wide cause, and his gracious and reconciling spirit have given him an influence as wide as the whole Church.

While Dr. Speer has retired from administrative responsibilities, he has not—we rejoice to say—retired from active service and leadership. More important, he has not retired from exercising the influence of his Christ-like personality. From such influence there is no retirement!

my addresses, both in America and during your visits in China. They have helped to keep up my morale.

Another way in which you have helped me has been by your books. In China as in America, we have been face to face with many of these problems of theology and of the spiritual life. and your books have done much to strengthen our faith and quicken our zeal.

For all this help we want to thank you.

May you be blessed in this new period of your life with its changed responsibilities, as you live to see the outworkings of some of your policies and the results of your past work. We feel that your heart is with us - the increasing body of retired missionaries who cannot give up our interest in the work.

All about us is the joy of the Christmas season, and the atmosphere of Peace and love to men, a joy which many of our brethren

*Robert E. Speer: Servant
of the Whole Church*

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REV. AND MRS. KENNETH P. MacDONALD
REV. AND MRS. STEPHEN L. SMITH
REV. AND MRS. OTHO P. D. LaPORTE
WILLIAM W. McANLIS, M.D.
MRS. WILLIAM W. McANLIS

CABLE ADDRESS
"INCULCATE LEGASPI"
F. M. CODE

THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
BICOL FIELD

Albay and Camarines
Stations

Legaspi, Albay, P. I.

November 26, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

Board General Letter No. 64 has just arrived and it hardly seems to be in due form without your name at the end: and 156 can never be quite the same without you there. Although it has never been my privilege to serve in your department, yet in some ways you have been more of a continuing missionary influence in my life than my own secretaries.

It is hard to evaluate the influence and helpfulness of a friend and leader - and it is not necessary to do so. Suffice to say that I can and do most sincerely thank God for the privilege of knowing you personally and through your writing and speaking and for having had a few intimate contacts with you in the years of my missionary service. Your stalwart faith, steadfastness and clear thinking have meant much to me.

I shall always remember with pleasure your little visit in our home in Naga, and with amusement your concern over the "meat" which was set before you down in Libmanan. We have always hoped that we might again have the pleasure of fellowshiping and counselling with you right here on our own field and amid our problems. And perhaps that will now be possible in your "New Freedom".

May God bless, guide and keep you in this new phase of activity upon which you are entering.

Your sincere friend,
Kenneth P. Macdonald



9 bags of grain for
my family.

1 bag of grain for
the Lord's Church.

Kasur, India,
January 17, 1938.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

I have not written to you as many letters as I have wished to write. For the past four years I have been very busy with my stewardship work, and also with the work in the Kasur field. For more than a year now I have had to have entire charge of the evangelistic work of the Kasur field and in addition have tried to carry on my stewardship work. The most of my summers for the last three years have been given to stewardship trips. I wish it were possible for me to be free from district superintending. The church at large needs the help of someone. The church at home has many helps. Our Presbyterian church has its Board of Christian Education. The church out here has nothing of the kind. I am hoping that when this Second Century Visit deputation comes to India that they will sense this need and will make some mention of it.

I hope that you and your wife will be able to come for the Joseph Cook Literature course. We will certainly welcome you to India.

I know that you are enjoying your retirement. You are able now to do many of the things that you were trying to do while you were carrying heavy responsibility. I still have fourteen years of service. I am hoping that if I am not set free for stewardship work on my next term of service that it may be possible for me to give myself to stewardship work after I retire. I certainly will spend my retire years in India, and will enjoy everyone of them. I know that you and your wife are enjoying yours.

Yours most sincerely,

J. B. Love

January 17th 1938.

Dear Dr. Seyer:-

At our monthly Station Meeting a few days ago I was appointed to represent the Station in writing to you a letter, expressing our appreciation of your many years of splendid service to the Church at home & abroad, and of our appreciation of all your life has meant to us as a ^{Station} Mission, and our love for you, our debt to you and our hope that these years just 70 may be full of good health, with the proper proportion of rest and activity making for an ever increasing usefulness.

Pyongyang Station has always felt that you belonged to us in a very real sense, and, although not our official Correspondent, that you understood our problems and have contributed much to their solutions. There are still problems to be solved, in fact they seem to us more difficult than those of the past, and we shall count upon your continued prayer and always appreciate your advice and help.

The Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Pyeongyang, Korea.

In an official letter possibly, personal matters should be omitted, but I can not refrain from expressing my personal admiration and gratitude, as I recall again the fact that at Northfield in 1901 it was your appeal that led me to volunteer for the Foreign Field.

We praise God for the great measure in which He has endowed and used you, and pray that as you look back on the many accomplishments of the past 45 years it may be with satisfaction and gratitude and that you may rejoice as you look ahead and realize that the future contains continued opportunities here, and an eternity of service with out limitation of time, strength, power or opportunities.

This letter conveys the greetings and love of all the members of Pyongyang Station, poorly expressed but sincerely felt.

Also kindly remember us to Mrs. Speer.

Sincerely yours
Stacy G. Roberts.

Ans.
RHS.

1957 Lime Avenue
Long Beach, California
January 10, 1938

Dr. Robert C. Speer
24 Gramercy Park
New York, N.Y.

My dear Doctor Speer:

I come as one of the multitudes who have been stimulated and challenged by the messages of your books. Over thirty years ago, when a student at Stanford University, they fell into my hands your biography of Hugh McAllister Beards and also "Young Men who overcame". (I have since been unable to procure these books; doubtless they are out of print.)

A few years ago I used for devotional reading "The New Christ Jesus". Just last year I finished reading, a chapter each Sunday afternoon, your "Christian Realities". This book I shared with a friend who had been bereaved, and together we rose to higher spiritual levels, and revelled in what Dr. Faulkes, in his personal tribute in the "Tribune", has characterized as your honesty "the exacting honesty of mental processes".

I cannot resist the impulse, because of the reverence I have for your spiritual power, to acknowledge to you my debt to your leadership. In the midst of the pressing economic, social, and spiritual

problems of our day, it is reassuring
to be able to turn repeatedly to a leader
whose consistency, penetration, and Christ-
like attributes are unswervingly stable,
even while moving forward.

May the years of your retirement
from the firing-line of service in our
denomination be singularly enriched by
the consciousness that the rich ministry
of your writing has enabled many to
enjoy more abundant life.

Most gratefully yours,
Chloe C. Anderson

STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT

ORGANIZED 1888 — INCORPORATED 1900

Affiliated with the World's Student Christian Federation

LACKAY, Chairman, General Committee

JAMES M. SPEERS, Treasurer

PAUL J. BRAISTED, General Secretary

254 FOURTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

February 21, 1938

My dear Dr. Speer:

The General Committee of the Student Volunteer Movement, at its meeting in Bronxville on February 1, voted to send you a letter of greeting, and assigned me the welcome responsibility of writing it.

We were thinking of the long and faithful service you have rendered in all phases of the missionary movement. We miss your great strength, your faith and courage, in our deliberations. We were especially remembering your devotion to and service in the Student Volunteer Movement through the years. In these days of more swiftly changing world conditions some of us are very anxious to recreate among Christian youth a real enthusiasm for the World Mission of Christ and their commitment to it. We know that this presupposes a growth of real faith in Christ and life from God. There is much to encourage us in the current attitudes of students who are more openminded, less critical, and more responsive in their attitude toward religion. All of this means the responsibility of larger opportunities for us. Our ranks are smaller, our resources greatly decreased — if not indeed still problematical; but the essential needs of human folk around the world are manifested to be the same today as they were yesterday. If the shadows of the international scene seem to deepen into greater darkness, the power and Spirit of Christ are seen brighter against that darkness.

In these days many of us are finding your example, with its deep, steady faith, its adventurous courage and its endurance, its world encompassing vision, to be of great strength. We want to send you this greeting hoping that you will find continuing joy in the many avenues of service open to you. Do continue to remember us day by day in your prayers, and thus actively continue in our fellowship.

Very sincerely yours,



General Secretary

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
"Rockledge"
Lakeville, Connecticut.

J. Speer
1936

The Presbyterian Mission

709 Calle Tenuesee
Manila, P.I.

File 19 Cms

December 9, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am sending enclosed the statement which the Executive Committee of the Philippine Mission passed at its meeting in October 1937. I regret the delay in forwarding it to you, as it should have been sent immediately, but was overlooked until the Minutes were being put in the press.

This is a very slight expression of our thought concerning you and your work. We are thinking of you not as disassociated from the great task of world evangelism, but still as active in the great work to which your life has been so generously and effectively given.

I count it one of the privileges of my missionary experience to have been associated as closely and happily with you as was the case two years ago at the Board offices. I trust that you will have the joy of continuing in a more leisurely and unlimited manner the work which you will have and which I know will not cease with your retirement.

Please remember me cordially to Mrs. Speer.

Wishing you both a Joyous Christmas and Splendid New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Charles R. Hamilton
CHARLES R. HAMILTON
Secretary

The following regarding the retirement of Dr. Robert E. Speer, as Senior Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, was made a matter of record:

"The retirement in September 1937, of Dr. Robert E. Speer from official relations with the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America is an event of far-reaching significance and importance. The youngest secretary ever called to such a position, with the longest term of service to his credit accomplished by any Foreign Secretary, 46 years, Dr. Speer's active promotion of the cause of Foreign Missions spans nearly half of the century just completed by the Board he has represented throughout this all but five decades of faithful and distinguished service. They have been years of easily acknowledged leadership and signal achievement. Dr. Speer has been identified with every forward step in organization of modern missions. In many of these steps his has been the initiation; his wise, able and consecrated direction of the affairs of the Presbyterian Board has placed it in the front rank of present-day effective agencies for the spread of the Gospel around the world. His activity in the production of illuminating and inspiring literature on Foreign Missions, as well as other phases of thought and life, his world-girdling travels, his untiring ministry in platform and pulpit addresses with their challenging message, his monumental breadth of reading and acquaintance with the current thought of his time, his deep devotion to the Word of God as the source of ideal and objective in personal character and the order of church advance--all these have made him facile princeps with his associates, among whom he has towered like a mountain peak. Robert E. Speer is loved for his human qualities and for his Christ-like spirit, for his stimulating companionship and his interest in the welfare of those with whom he has been brought into contact in service. He has been both our admiration and our despair, for his attainments and achievements have all been superlative.

"As a Mission it is our desire to extend to him our sincere congratulations for the years well lived, for the service highly rendered, for the honors nobly won.

"It is difficult to think of Dr. Speer as unrelated to our missionary work, nor will he be. He cannot be, whatever the rule declares of the termination of official relationship. We will still hear his voice, read his words, see his smile, feel the benediction of his presence, be conscious still of the abiding reality of his leadership. We thank God for Robert E. Speer and express our hope for long continued service in the Church and in the great cause for which he lives."

Mission Protestante Americaine

Abong Mbang, Cameroun

West Africa

TO OUR BELOVED DR. ROBERT E. SPEER:

Forty and six years ago, before ever any one of us had arrived upon these shores, God in His good providence set in a position of authority over the Foreign Missions of our Church, our beloved friend and counsellor, Robert E. Speer. Now has come to him (as it must to all of us to whom length of days is granted) the hour to lay down the burden of his assigned responsibilities. We, in Annual Meeting assembled, are therefore moved to express ourselves, by way of appreciation to him, and in gratitude to God, for his long rich service through the years to the West Africa Mission. And yet, we realize that there is no one of us who is adequate or sufficient for this summons of love and deep regard.

To us in Africa has never been vouchsafed the joy of such fellowship with him as other Missions have enjoyed. Ours has never been the privilege of traveling with him the forest trails of the past, speckled with sunshine and shadow, or the sun-drenched motor highways of the present day. Our hearts have never thrilled to the quiet earnestness of his voice in forest or in grassland sanctuary. The thresholds of our homes, crossed by others of our Board, have never known his step.

There is, however, not one faintest shadow of doubt in the firm assurance that is ours, that he has, after all, been with us in our journeys as a Mission through the years; that he has worshipped with us, time and again, in spirit in the temples of brick, cement, and stone on these latter days as in the unpretentious bark, thatched chapels of the past; that he has likewise been one with us in our homes as in our councils, as we have reviewed our problems and our tasks, unburdened ourselves of our failures and our fears and shared one with the other our joys in service.

That our interests have never been alien to his heart has been in more ways manifest than we can detail here. ---whether as Ambassador of the Church compelled on our behalf to approach ministers of sovereign states and departmental heads of our own government because of difficulties in the field which we were powerless to avoid or adjust:

--- whether as wise missionary Statesman when we sought his council in his New York office:

--- whether as Spokesman for Africa as for other Mission fields before the high courts of the Church and in many formal and informal gatherings:

--- whether as gracious Father and Brother in Christ receiving us into his home, greeting us in passing in the corridors of "156", or in clasping us by the hand after the noon-hour Prayer Meeting of the staff:

we have known him ever to be the Friend of Africa, and have loved him as a devoted servant of the Church whose



life has made us often to recall that servant of "whom it was said, "He saved others, Himself He could not save." Among us the inspiration of his humble walk will long endure. The fragrance of his self-effacing service for us will never fade away.

We thank God for Robert E. Speer.

And we pray, God willing, he may yet find time in years remaining to him to visit us here in this land where during the four and a half decades of his service, the Mission, once sunk in the depths of failure and despair, has, by God's grace, been raised to a position of such notable distinction.

We own our debt to him. We covet still further blessings at his hand. We could wish to see him here. He would never know, now would we, what great and lasting benefit such a visit on his part would be to us and to the National Church as well. But God knows.

And so, to him, very simply but very earnestly, we say, "God bless you, Dr. Speer, and bring you, now at length, if it be His will, to this great harvest field so richly blessed through the years by your devotion and your prayer."

THE WEST AFRICA MISSION

E. C. Beauland -
Field Secretary

Dear Dr. Speer:

Today a letter from Iran came addressed to you and was marked "Please forward." I felt that it might be from one of the missionaries on a mission matter and so opened it. It is from Rev. Klair M. Armstrong of Tabriz and is a two page letter referring to criticisms which he has heard the Coatesville Church, or some members init, had made of their support of himself and Mrs. Armstrong. I recall that we did have correspondence of that sort a year or so ago and will get it from the files and let Dr. Dodds deal with the matter in conference with Dr. Trull. Of course if you wish to see the entire letter I can send it to you, but I thought you would rather I would handle it this way.

However, I want to quote to you the last paragraph from the letter which is dated January 2, 1938:

"Mrs. Armstrong and I wish to express to you and to Mrs. Speer our most hearty wish for your continued health and joy this new year. We enjoy the confidence that a change of address has not abated your loving and prayerful interest in this work and that we can still benefit from your sympathetic counsel in our problem."

In acknowledging the letter Dr. Dodds will of course tell them that the letter was reported to you and this last paragraph sent on to you.

Cordially yours,

(Mrs. E. P.) Susan C. Bidwell

Caixa Postal 350 Bahia
Brazil.

Feb. 17. 1938.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Enclosed please find a minute adopted by the Central Brazil Mission at its annual meeting held in Bahia city. Dec 15-24, 1937.

May I add my personal "Thank you" for all that you have done to back us up here in Brazil.

Your address at the General Assembly in Columbus I read with deep interest. We here in Brazil Foreign Missions + Brazilian Workers thank you most heartily for your reference in that address to the progress of the gospel here in Brazil.

May God give us grace to proceed well on the foundation so admirably laid by the pioneer Missions + Brazilian Workers.

Miss Pennington of Baltimore told me in Jan 1928. a story of how students in the Episcopal Sem in Virginia were brought to consider work in Brazil through Dr. Blackford telling them about the work. Last week I learned that Pres. Serlubo Vargas and his wife both studied in Episcopal schools in Rio Grande do Sul.

Cordially yours.

Harold C. Anderson

Sec. Central Brazil Mission

Ponte Nova, Eda Bahia
Brazil

Dr. Robert E. Speer leaves the Board of Foreign Missions after nearly a half-century of faithful, devoted service. Senior Secretary of the Board and Secretary for India when he retired, at one time or another he has visited every mission of the church but three. Therefore not our mission alone but all the missions regret his retirement. The C. B. M. cannot forget the wise counsel and friendly aid accorded it by Dr. Speer before, during and after his visit to the Brazil Missions so many years ago. "Missionary statesman" Dr. Speer likes to call the outstanding leaders of our early missionary efforts. Most adequately does he himself fulfill all the implications of the title. Knowing that retirement does not necessarily mean cessation of interest, the Mission bids him Godspeed and hopes to hear the voice and read the words of Robert E. Speer for many more years to come.

508 Alton Apartments,
1445 Park Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Speer;-

Thank you for your lovely letter,-in your own handwriting. I shall treasure it greatly.

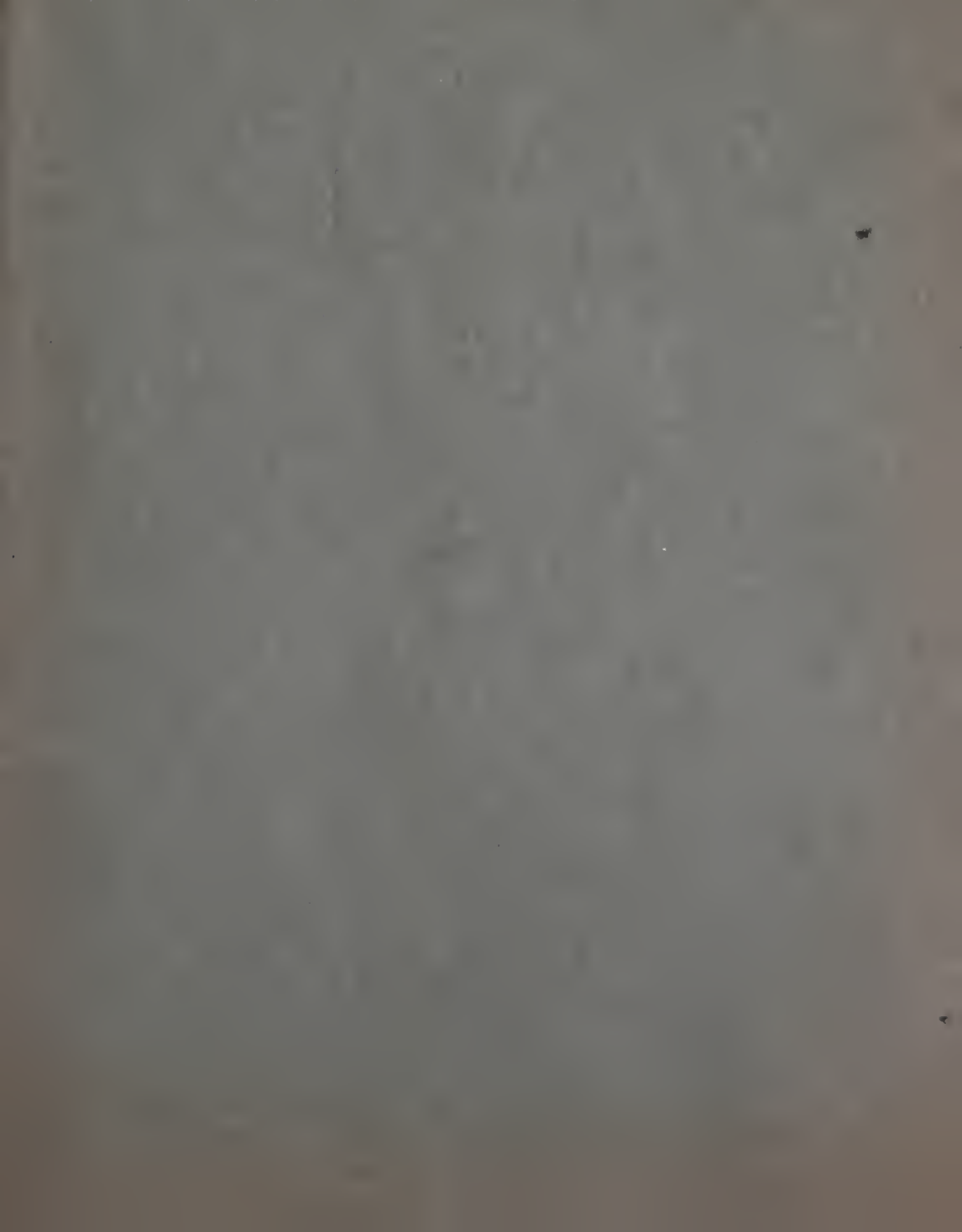
I had not known of course of your early sorrows. And it gives me a tremendous thrill to think of your life, so shot through with sorrow and tragedy, and to see you stand like some giant oak of the forest, undaunted, undismayed,-still a follower of the lowly Nazarene and the foremost Christian leader of the world.

I remember Fred's telling me that it was said of you when you came out of college,-that you were the biggest man--physically, mentally and spiritually, that had come out of Princeton in twenty years. But the supreme test of your faith must have been,-the tragic death of your son.

I thank God that I have known such a man.

Sincerely yours,

Charlotte H. Shipp
(Mrs. Fred B.)



012

EAST CHINA MISSION

(Formerly "Central China Mission")

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

OFFICE OF THE MISSION SECRETARY

Ningpo, CHINA.

September 7, 1938.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
c/o Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Speer :-

I quote below a recent minute faken at our last annual Mission Meeting :

"3869. Robert E. Speer, D.D. - Retirement. East China Mission regrets the 'coming of age' and retirement of the senior secretary of our Foreign Board, Dr. Robert E. Speer. We have long depended upon his wise leadership, his marvelous faith and his rich store of helpful advice, especially during those years when, as 'our' secretary for 'Central' China Mission, he gave time and thought to matters relating to this Mission.

"We are grateful that his retirement does not remove him entirely from us and that we still may be stimulated by his wisdom in articles and books that come from his pen in future days as in the past.

"Dr. Speer's world outlook, his deep sympathy and universal knowledge of mission work have shaped mission policies not only in our own denomination but to a large extent in all Protestant Churches, and for that wide contribution we wish to express our appreciation at this time of his retirement."

With kind personal regards, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

C. M. Smith.
Mission secretary.

Letters written on both sides.

513

400 EAST 59TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

Sept 10-57

Dear Robert Speer,

Thank God for your life
and work. He has been
good to us to spare
you for seventy years

of service. How have
you been able to accomplish
more in His glory and
the Church's work -

I personally owe you
much for your inspiration
as I was starting in
the ministry -

You have been blessed
with a wonderful wife &
an adorable & spirited
in amongst the great
women of our generation.

You have something
to live for in your children.

I am proud of Margaret's
work in church &

My love to each one.

We will use the enclosed
case of jewelry, rollers &
to celebrate

Always your devoted friend,

Bring the whole family to
Lum on some day!

Good 8/12

DELAN L. PIERSON
184 FERNWOOD AVENUE
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

September 8/37

My Beloved Rab;

It does not seem possible that you have reached three score years and ten. They have been fruitful years and you have brought joy and blessing to many. I hope and pray that if you reach four score years they will not be years of labor and sorrow - or at least, not of deep sorrow. I am sure there will be labor in you - fruitful labor - which.

You have life and strength,
You will look forward to
it with joy and anticipation.

With what real pleasure
I look back on our days of
friendship and fellowship.
I remember where I first
met you - I think it
was in my freshman
year in Princeton - these
Northfield days when you
were there with John
Finnon; and right down
to the present my love and
gratitude and admiration
for you have been undimmed.
We have many things in

Common, though we are different
in many ways. I am satisfied
that it should be so, as long
as our sympathetic friendship
continues.

You will be ~~unsuccessfully~~
nominated in the Foreign Board.
We don't want to keep you in
the Review. I hope you can speak
in an organ through which
to express your convictions &
views of Union work - to the
Church as a whole.

I am here in Bailey Island
Maine (near Portland) for about
a week's holiday, returning with

the Curtis family and the Douglases.
There are 15 all together - from
Mrs Curtis 76 to Baby Curtis
8 years old. We are having a
wonderful time with beautiful
weather - riding, walking,
bathing, working, talking.
I leave tomorrow & plan to be
in the office on Friday. This
outing would be ideal if only
Emma & Belle were here - but I
am thankful she is safe and in
the place of unalloyed joy.

With much love

Yours ever
Otto

Ans. 4/1/7.

ALUMNAE HOUSE • VASSAR COLLEGE • POUGHKEEPSIE • N. Y.

Sept. 4

Dear Dr. Speer:-

I can't leave without dropping you a line to tell you personally how much we all have missed you at this conference. In fact I didn't dare think about it too much for it just seemed too hard to realize that we've got to move forward without your wisdom + wit to carry us thru. Dr. Dodds has been such a fine devotional leader. I think we're going

to have continual surprises
in store for us through
he has such unexpected
depths.

Oh how so sorry I wasn't
here for your birthday
or for the dinner on the
26th - I'll have to be in Michi-
gan but my heart will
be with you. Maybe it is
just as well for actual
farewells are hard for me.

The garden must be lovely
now. I can see the new
bowls of flowers in the
study. They were so beauti-
ful last year.

As my word to you now - I
want you to know that you
& Mrs. Speer to me are the
greatest Christians I know & are
& will be one of the sources of greatest happiness to
me in my Christian life. God bless you both

CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

BISHOP H. H. FOUT
Chairman

ms
S. S. HOUGH, Executive Secretary
400 U. B. Building
Dayton, Ohio

J. S. FULTON
Recording Secretary

7809 Memhallowan

Dear Dr Speer -

Nov 8/37

Mrs Hough & I listened to your
inspiring message over the Radio
& then I've just pondered a copy read.

I feel I cannot refrain from sending
you this by note since beauty has
been just entered into the new relation
ship, as Executive Secretaries ^{Freedom} ~~Freedom~~
you testify daily demands of allowing
official ~~work~~ ^{work} & granted the privilege
to follow the trail of truth as the
Spirit of the Master may lead.

You Dr Speer have been a constant
inspiration to both Mrs Hough & myself
since I first heard you at the ~~Communi~~
cal Conf. in N.Y. in 1904

I am convinced, you will ^{yet} give the
world some of your very best messages,
as you stand aloof, & listen ^{ed} look
through the years of the past,
(over)

I am gratified an opportunity
to put into printed form
some thoughts I could not
express while ~~in~~ active tasks
As a preliminary I was
led to write some newspaper
columns in the Week Rejuvenating

I'll enclose copy of two
of them ^{in which you may see my first line} which deal with
the opportunity of the 150th
Anniversary just ahead
for our National ~~and~~ for our
Churches. ^{if properly observed} Is not this a
favorable time for men of fine
insight such as God has given
you, to make a research survey
of the past 150 years of Abolition
in the U.S. & give us ways &
means for better things soon?

I find Jonathan Edwards said just before his
death "I have a strong desire for a history of true
vital and experimental religion ^{enthusiasm}, bringing
down the history from age to age judiciously and clearly
making the distinction between the one and the other
attitudes ^{which should be done now to get right aims} & their
operation? abiding for Abolition



THE WILLARD HOTEL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

See On Train to New York -

Sept 10, '37

Dear R. Spear:

Last night I wired you from Washington, sending love and best wishes for your birthday - It ought to be a very happy day because it marks a boundary line in a remarkably successful career, characterized by virtue, fidelity and high idealism. It must be a source of satisfaction and joy to come back on the growth and development of the work of the Foreign Board during your 46 years: to know that as you

Learn it, it is strong and out of doubt,
and to the parent of lives, giving chance
in many lands. You have truly fought
a good fight, finished a course, kept the
faith, and deserve the crown you will
surely receive.

It was nice that the last
assembly was so peaceful and quiet - After
the other organizations and storm-tossed
meetings in previous years, it was much like
finding the Bay of Biscay calm and
still - as Pat Russell and I did in 1928
on our return trip from Mexico - after crossing
it formerly is one of its most savage moods -
when we did 161 miles in 24 hours -
So the Assembly this year was peaceful and
calm - after we had braced ourselves for a



THE WILLARD HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

single trip - and that was a happy setting
for your first formal participation in its
sessions - it came near to being a
"Living, Breathing and Beloved community," as it
should be, and your spirit and the spirit
of Christ helped to create such a
community at Columbus this year -

I am on my way back from
Washington where I went to check up
on certain matters - I had an interesting time
with the Nankers, in the Stal Dept - who
was indignant at the careless statement
of the President last Sunday, about the
Nankers and much more difficult the work of

The Department. He suggested that the more
Americans who know the situation in China the
better with the President in pocket, the better.

We had a session ^{in New York} two days ago of
representatives of the think and colleges in China,
to frame a statement in regard to missionary
in China and missionary property there in the
light of the war. The old problems of
in demit came up, and I engaged among
the deletion of some of the 'Warunkis'
on thought-out and various statements
in the proposed document.

I was at the Chinese Embassy today.
I was told the only serious damage to
Nanking from Japanese bombs was to
the Legislative Yuan building - is the only
old Li Hong Chang funeral garden - ~~missed~~
as "Hao-fu", and to the school for



THE WILLARD HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

children of those who died in the Revolution -
outside the city wall - So the Japanese
bombs have destroyed beauty in the old
garden - and small children of Chinese
patients - but this far has not done
other damage in Nanking

I was told nearly 700,000
people had left Nanking - but that
surely must be an exaggeration.

The Embassy did not know of the
report that Russian planes were coming
to Siam, in fact, as reported in
the press, was true or not -

P. T. Wang is a good fighter
and has plenty of courage - Some of

the others at the Embassy - seemed
frightened and depressed - I was told one of
Feng Yu-Liang's sons had been killed.

I can't help wishing I could be
more there - if I could be of help -
but not with my family. There will
soon be a call for Red Cross nurses and
relief workers - and medical units

Thank you for the statement about
the University which is just what I want.
I appreciate you trying the time to write
it on your last day in the office -
The speed of this train isn't helping
my calligraphy - please pardon its obscurity.

I am glad you are going to read.
I am glad you are going to read.
I am glad you are going to read.
I am glad you are going to read.

Who is about
relief, after the concentration
My kin to you, Mrs. Green, Margaret
and William -
W. R. G. W.

REV. J. MCCARRELL LEIPER
23 HUDSON VIEW TERRACE
NEWBURGH, NEW YORK

Sept 11th '37

Rev. Robt E. Spear
156-5th Ave New York City

Dear Dr. Spear: -

I have been reading
your Board Letter 63 to Miss
Brown, my Sister in Law.
& we both want to express
our interest in all you said.

We Congratulate you
on the fine work that you
have rendered our Church,
& the Foreign field, back
through the years.

Miss Brown spends part
of her time with us. I have

this work taken her back to
The Home at Newton N.J.

I well remember what
D. L. Moody said of you
in the early years of your
work, it was a true prophecy.
He had a large influence
in my own life, & it was
through a Conference with
him, at Northfield, that I
became a Home Missionary
to the Cherokee Indians, &
an associate of Dr. W. R. King
at the beginning of his work.

We have been receiving some
interesting accounts of the Oxford
& Edinburgh Conference from
my son Dr. Leiper.
Sincerely,
W. B. Carpenter



Isabelle, William Jr.,
Flora, Elise, and
Margaret Ann Miller

with love for
Dr. Spear

Tehran, Aug. 15, 1937.

My dear Mr. Speer,

03

I have forgotten the date of your birthday, but I know it comes in September, and so I want to send you a note of loving greeting to reach you on that joyous day when you reach the "three score and ten" mile post in your life. How I thank God for you, and for every year and every day of your full, fruitful life! How much poorer my life, and a vast number of other lives, would have been if you had followed the example of Brainerd and Martyn and other burning and shining lights and died young! Only the loving Father who gave you to us knows how much his gift has blessed the Church throughout the world. I wish I could see you on your birthday, and could tell you all that is in my heart. But I am far away, and even if I were at your side I am sure I could not say what I feel. But at this distance I am bold enough to tell you that I have loved and admired you for the last quarter to a century, and there is no man to whom I feel more indebted than to you.

I have sympathized deeply with you in all the trial and difficulties of the past years, particularly Elliot's going and the agony which that brought you, and I have hoped that as some of Paul's younger friends were a comfort to the great apostle in his sufferings so I might in some measure be a source of comfort and joy to you. I am well aware how much I have failed to be the kind of Christian and missionary that you have always held up to me as an ideal, but I am still pressing on toward that goal. And now on your birthday, ~~and~~ ^{and} your entering upon a new career & service, I want to send you this assurance of my love and prayers.

As you look back over the achievement & the past years of toil and labor may you be satisfied, and as you look into the future, be it on earth or in heaven, may your heart be filled with hope and joy! May God spare you to us your children for many years to come, and may he give us a double portion of your spirit, and make us worthy to carry on what you have begun! And whether you are our Secretary or not, I hope you will find time to bless us with your letters as long as you live.

Thank you for your recent letter. I am glad you were able to make some use of my report on the blessed trip. I have just returned from three weeks in Hamadan where we had a Bible School for the Christians of Iran. About 150 were enrolled from all parts of the country, and we had a very good time. Elders gave splendid lectures on the Reformation, Richard & Yezd gave very helpful lectures on the Person of Christ, and I have had the privilege of teaching the Gospel to John. No doubt Mr. Allen & Mr. Elder will tell you about our experience. It was a joy to be in Hamadan again, and to stand by the graves of Mr. & Mrs. Hawkes, and thank God for them and for the others buried in Hamadan in the beautiful Memorial Chapel near the Hospital. I recalled that you once spent some weeks in Hamadan against your will!

The joint Committee from Mission and Church is calling on the whole body of Evangelical Christians to unite this year, in preparation for the Hangchow Conference in emphasizing Bible study and evangelism and prayer. We hope this will

be a memorable year in Iran. We are in need of prayer, and I am sure you will do all you can to get people in America to help us by their intercession. We are praying that the number of believers in our churches may be doubled this year.

I had a visit yesterday from a Mohammedan preacher, who has a salary from the Department of Education to give moral instruction to the people. This man heard the gospel in Sobzevar about 10 years ago, and now he comes saying that during the past two months he has been convinced of the superiority of Christ to all others and has believed on him. It will be hard for him to take up the cross, lay aside his turban, and speak boldly for Christ. But as he knelt in prayer with me he said he was ready to confess Christ before men. He is an able and eloquent man, and has already written a little book proving the truth of the Gospel. May God help him to go forward bravely!

All the family join me in sending you hearty greetings and best wishes and much love to your birthday!

Ever affectionately
William Miller

38 Duncan Rd. S. I.

DAB

Sept. 8th 1937-

Dear Dr. Speer:-

A feeling of deep regret oppressed me when Licien reported the sad news that you had severed your official connection with the Board of Foreign Missions, and had retired from active service, because of having reached the prescribed age limit.

The Persia missionaries will sorely miss you as their corresponding secretary.

You were so closely identified with the work and with ^{the} workers, and so ably represented them at the "Home-base".

I cannot say that I am in full sympathy with the present-day custom, of fixing dates, for the retirement of God's honored and much-used servants.

It seems to me that life should rather be measured by its aims and its achievements, than by the number of years one has lived. Should it not?

Some of us, you know, only began to live, when we began to die - and the Church of Christ still has its Joshua's and its Caleb's who are as physically, spiritually and mentally fit to carry on, at seventy years as they were at forty-five.

Men who, like yourself, are our Nestor's in wisdom, and knowledge - ripe in experience and "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" - We feel sorry, indeed when they are automatically

retired.

I do not know whether the slogan,
"It is better to burn out than rust
out" was an original saying of
yours or not, however, I have heard
you use it, and now, as I recall
it, I feel encouraged to hope that
you mean to be true to your
conviction, and not retire to "rust
out" but to consider yourself, seventy
years young, and ready to con-
tinue bearing the torch of a
burning heart of love for Christ,
whose glow shall change other
lives through the ministry of
your pen and voice and conse-
crated life.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Spear
for future happiness. Remain
Very sincerely yours
Arthur
Mace
Inglis

675

Best Wishes

To you

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer
good christian leaders
of our Foreign Missions Board
now celebrating the
Centennial

One hundred years!

How great to have a leading
part in this service of

our thankfulness for the part.

"The Unfinished Task"

I am truly grateful too, for the books sent to me direct from the hand writing of Robert C. Speer to my library in our home, just across the street from our Pres. Church. That others may read and learn, as in my stewardship of life I love to share with "joy and gladness" "Read for the knowledge"

The service of missions is very
near my heart. Women's Mission
is very precious to me, - every page
this month the picture of
Robert E. Speer and from the
Literature table, "Our Century of
Progress" prepared by Mrs. Speer
which we will use and other
Literature, play, Centennial Hymns
etc on our Centennial program
our minister and wife, Rev. & M.
H Hugo leading in our Rockfield
Church, each Sunday this month
also Rally days of our Sunday
School. - seems a revival.

The "Pension Plan" has hurt
our Church and all others in
our Indiana State, probably
not the Pension itself, but the
way it was done, to the people.
"Worked in a very dishonest way."
Seems all along one must forgive-
forget and go on, which is the
teaching of Jesus our Service and
Friends. We would greatly appreciate
greetings from you addressed to me
with thanks most graciously
may you be given health and
strength to do your heart's wishes.

Mrs John W. Kerlin

October 9th 1937

Rockfield
Indiana

The "Pension Plan" has hurt
our Church and all others in
our Indiana State, probably
not the Pension itself, but the
way it was done, to the people.
"Worked in a very dishonest way."
Seems all along one must forgive
forget and go on, which is the
teaching of Jesus our Saviour and
Friend. We would greatly appreciate
greetings from you addressed to me
with thanks most graciously
may you be given health and
strength to do your heart's wishes.

Mrs. John W. Keelers
October 7th 1937 Rockfield
Indiana

Thankfulness for the part.

675

Best Wishes

to you

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer
good christian leaders
of our Foreign Missions Board
now celebrating the
Centennial
One hundred years!
How great to have a leading
part in this service of

from New York, after which Dr. Speer's right ear must have burned well if there is anything in the saying that that particular appendage always burns when people are speaking well of one.

I asked Mrs. Freeman if she could repeat the speech. She said "No, I can't but wasn't Dr. Speer clear and comprehensive as always?" Of course I agreed with her. But I'M going to send to the N.B.C. for a copy of the address for I certainly did not take it all in to retain long.

We who had been under your particular care and guidance for so long in the different fields were all very proud and happy that it was our secretary who was thus being honored throughout the world and making it well worth the world's while to listen.

Dr. Dave Hibbard of the Phillippines asked the blessing at the table. Dr. Worley was the host at our table (the Freeman's table) Dr. Vecte at the other end. Mrs. Whitehouse of China took first prize on costume. Harry Brown of India, Dr. Candor of Colombia and a number of others gave amusing incidents. Two sons of Dr. Berkovitz gave two very good musical selections, one on the violin and the younger one, on a flute (?), both accompanied by the crack organist of that church.

Tomorrow evening is to be the grand finale of the century in Pasadena church circles with the pageant written by Dr. Heicher, pastor of Westminster (my church), at his church. Hundreds from the other churches are to assist.

Tomorrow morning we all take our "Centennial Fund" boxes and how we are looking forward to the glad announcement from New York of "A MILLION DOLLARS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS".

If all pastors have been as earnest as Drs. Freeman and Heicher there surely will be some result worth telling.

I enjoy the fellowship and associations of all kinds at West-

Westminster and am beginning to feel that possibly I may be of some little service yet ~~in~~ the Lord's vineyard.

It was a saddening surprise to hear of Dr. Calhoun's death. I am wondering about his wife and son~~e~~ and daughter. They were a most devoted family and he was the pivot around which their life revolved. Very frequently these days word comes of the Father's calling His children to come to a new service.

We have lost three of our number here since May.

But I want to tell you how happy I am in a brand new apartment which is MINE, a gift from Mrs. D. A. Murray of Santa Monica. She and I lived together in Yamaguchi when she was Annie M Foste of Ottumwa, Iowa. At the same time Dr. Murray and Raymond Gorbald were living together in one of the station houses, near us.

The whole building has six apartments ,a double one at either end and four singles between. I, of course am in a single one and Miss Martha B. Hunter of Colombia has the adjoining one. She is a lovely,lovely lady as you no doubt know. So far we are the only ones in the building and are getting anxious to know who our neighbors are to be, but in the meantime,she and I are having a good time getting settled and furnished. My Japanese things have all been packed away these two years as Miss Bigelow had an abundance for her house which I have shared till now,most gratefully.

I am enjoying my pictures,rugs etc,reminders of happy days across the Pacific.

This brings me back to my senses and I recall that I sat down to write to you re your retirement and have not even mentioned it. Well,now that I am ready to take up that subject,what can

I say? Nothing more than you already know. My reaction to the retirement of any one is always the thought that he or she is going through the same pangs that I did and you know some thing of what they were. In your case however(I am writing to both of you with both in mind) you are being released for freer service along the same lines of the same great causes, I am sure, so I think the greatest regrets are the thought of what a tremendous hiatus you are leaving in the ranks at "I56" and how those left behind ~~and~~ there and in "Y.W." circles are feeling the loss of the great amount of strength, wisdom and spiritual power they are sustaining. But its all His work and He will reveal His will as those who take up the burdens show their willingness to know and do.

I left this letter till the latest possible moment in the centennial year and now I'll finish it perhaps wildly and get to rest and get it off tomorrow.

I have the envelope already addressed to both of you but I think I'll take another and address it to Mrs. Speer alone, for it is hardly suitable to send to a busy, busy retiring secretary to read in his office.

Mrs. Speer understands how I naturally just gabble away about whatever comes up.

While writing the other sheet Mrs. Cleland McAfee called ~~me~~ up and we had quite a chat. It is such a joy to have them out here, though I have not seen so very much of them yet, as her chief aim is to see that Cleland gets all the rest he needs between his addresses. He has been wonderful in making so many splendid ones and scarcely repeating himself at all, according to his committee.

I heard him at Occidental and at Westminster. He is to broadcast tomorrow and is kindly giving us old folks one evening in November.

Mrs. McAfee told me just now that your Margaret is at home and is at Wellesley, "Making a fine impression on the girls", as of course she would.

Bless her dear heart ! How she has suffered during these last months. I am glad to know that it was her furlough time but I also know how she has often wished she were back there with her dear people.

As for me, I am so chagrined over the unspeakable atrocities the militia from Japan has committed, I have no face left. I really pray that China will come out gloriously victorious. I never allow myself to say that "Japan" is doing all this.

I stopped writing to try to satisfy myself as to who the "Mrs Whitehouse" who won first prize, is.

I took it for granted she was one of our missionaries till I was talking to Mrs. McAfee over the phone. She said she had no idea who she was. I went next door and discussed it with Miss Hunter, but no light came. So I called up Dr. Worley and learned that she is a Pasadenan who attends Dr. F's church, and probably "was never out of the U.S.A." so you need not try to find her lodged among the hundreds of missionaries in your heads and hearts.

My love to Margaret please and an invitation to call here as she returns to China.

Best wishes to all of you. Sincerely
Mary R. Gorboll

I would like to know about that of your wife's name but do not expect you to reply to this letter.

Mrs. McAfee told me just now that your Margaret is at home and is at Wellesley, "Making a fine impression on the girls", as of course she would.

Bless her dear heart ! How she has suffered during these last months. I am glad to know that it was her furlough time but I also know how she has often wished she were back there with her dear people. As for me, I am so chagrined over the unspeakable atrocities the militia from Japan has committed, I have no face left. I really pray that China will come out gloriously victorious. I never allow myself to say that "Japan" is doing all this.

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My love to Margaret please and an invitation to call here as she returns to China.

Best wishes to all of you. Sincerely
mom & dad

I would like to know about you - that of your big "ride" but do not expect you to reply to this letter.

Murrysville, Pa
Nov 16 - 1937.

Mr Robt E. Speer ⁷⁴⁹
New York City.

My dear Mr Speer:-

As a member of our Presbyterian Ch. and vitally interested in our great Missionary enterprise - I feel I must write to express to you my personal gratitude and appreciation for your fine contribution to our Foreign Mission Program just how much you have contributed can only be written in the "Book of Life" I have never missed an opportunity for hearing you speak and I thank you for the inspiration

and confidence you have always
given me for the great cause of Missions.
You have been so Christ-like in your
vision and your presentation of
the work that I have always felt
your challenge as a challenge of
Christ himself.

Do you recall the verses I sent
you once that a friend of mine
wrote on the cover of your little
booklet "Our Foreign Missions Home
For?" which I had loaned her to
read?

"Perhaps of things they only see
what of them they see in me."

And what I see of Dr. Speer
is even more than written here.
And so because I've read the book,
Though Speer, at times I've had a look."

This friend passed away very suddenly
just a few months after she read
your book and I read the verses
at the Memorial service which our
Missy Soc. held in her memory.
She expressed my own feelings
when I have listened to your mes-
sages - they ring so true to him
that I hear His clear call thro your
message.

Especially was this true as I lis-
tened to your fine presentation
of Foreign Missions at the Syria
Mosque last month. I hope the
young people there heard the clear
call of the Master himself. "Follow Me"
and will "Follow" Him even into the
Foreign Fields.

We rejoice in your long years of
faithful and efficient service.
While we regret your retirement

From our Board, we know that your
service to the Cause, Foreign Missions
is not done, but that the influences
which you have set in motion in
other lives will bear rich fruitage
all down thro' the ages and others
will reap where you have sown.

May the Lord richly bless you
and Mrs. Peer and your family
and give you His Peace!

"Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the watching shepherds
to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you."

Cordially yours,
Mrs. H. S. MacDonald.

97 Lakeside
New Concord, Ohio
Dec. 27, 1937

530

Dear Dr. Speer:-

While, these Christmas greetings will be a bit belated, I trust that our best wishes for the New Year will reach you in good time. And our wish is that this New Year, which finds you as it were, setting out on a new venture, may be the best you have ever had. I have just today gotten around to reading the Board Letter of Dec. 16th, in which in your greetings to the missionaries, I note the number of projects you have on hand, and the amount of time you feel you will need for carrying them out. I can well believe, then that 1938 is going to be a year of new thrills for you.

Among my New Year's resolutions is one, to start learning at once to play one or two musical instruments. I neither sing or play any type of instrument. If I get started now, by the time I retire at 70 I ought to have a good basis for going ahead when I have some leisure. I am not, however, aiming at the concert stage.

Like all the other returned missionaries, I have had the privilege of making

Many new contacts among the churches these past few months, while travelling about in connection with the Centennial celebration. Most of my work has been in Ohio and Michigan. Quite a number have said that they think the Centennial is going to mean something of an awakening for the home-church, to say nothing of the impetus it will give to our work on the foreign fields.

During December I have had the new experience of personal solicitation among some of our Presbyterian "Economic royalists" in Indianapolis and Cincinnati, and for a few days this week I will be in Columbus, O. I regret that the Centennial Fund is not going to budge because of my efforts: a few hundred dollars for the fund and a lot of new experience which I trust will in time prove valuable in my work.

While in Indianapolis I was entertained at the home of Rev. Harry Campbell. You will recall that he was in India, at Etah, for over a term, and that on his return to America he married a Mrs. Lilly, daughter of the Mrs. Geo. Lilly, who has so generously supported the Boys School at Etah. They have a beautiful house and there is a beautiful home, in Indianapolis. Mrs. Geo. Lilly lives with them. My visit with them, who, while possessing much, are always open to the appeal of every needy cause and are sensitive to the economic and social maladjustments of our day, was an inspiration.

While in Chicago I had the privilege of spending an evening with Mrs. John Forman and her daughter Florence and family. In case you have not recently been in touch with them you will be glad to learn that Mrs. Forman has been keeping rather good health and that she is just as keenly interested in Indian affairs as ever. Her daughter, Florence (Mrs. Hoxes) has three fine boys, of about high school age. I have also visited a couple of times with Dr. Henry Forman and family, in Columbus. Their three children have been making fine records in their high school and University work. Dr. Henry Forman seemed to be almost as vigorous as when I last saw him eight years ago, with no decrease in his flow of wit.

Early in December I found the staff at the Chicago office rather Centennial worn, and somewhat depleted. With

the dropping out of Dr. Bible, they had of course been carrying a very heavy burden. Miss Ann Reid's mother had just suffered a fall which they thought would take Miss Reid out of the office for some time; but I believe she was able to return soon. Mrs. Sternheim (I believe that is the name) was laid up with some trouble which would keep her out of the office for at least a month. Dr. DeWeiler had been ordered by his doctor to take a month's rest at the first possible opportunity. May 1938 brings new strength and re-inforcements to our friends in the Chicago office.

Let me say how much I have appreciated and enjoyed the privilege of being so closely associated with you for so many years in our great missionary enterprise; and I am one of many who feel a keen personal loss as you step out of the office which made this personal relationship possible. With not so much detailed administrative work to take your time I hope that it will be possible for you in some way to give more of your time to those of us on the field, from now on.

Most sincerely Yours

John E. Waller

Fourth Presbyterian Church
Chicago

CHURCH OFFICE
126 E. CHESTNUT STREET
SUPERIOR 8450

Ans

Sept 11 '37

n. of Grand Lake, Colo.

Dear Dr. Speer:

We thank you yesterday - here
on the ranch - and thank God
for all the years and for you. I
had a telegram all written out
but did not get into town
in order to send it.

I know that "the best is
yet to be" - that for which all the
rest has been made.

You have been used of God
as no other man in your
generation. My dear friend
rejoice in this. Today I have
finished Macaulay's (HR) in his
great book on Foxgloves. He quotes

I am writing to a friend about
the life of Pusey. I have written
"The absence of joy in his religious life
was only the inevitable effect of his
conception of God's method of saving
men; in parting with the brethren
truth concerning justification, he
parted with the springs of gladness"
well - you have never parted
with the "springs of gladness" because
you have never parted with Christ
and His work of grace in you and
thru you.

I have had a good many
teachers and for them all I thank
God but I have had only one Father
in the Gospel. From the first day
till now - you are the Father. With
me are a multitude in every land -
Persia and elsewhere who look
upon and thru you to Him and
His joy. Don't bother to answer this ^{letter}
we have had a good summer - Re-
member the best fishing is just ahead!
affectionately - Ray Anderson

REID STUART DICKSON
WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA

Nov. 2, 1931.

Dear Dr. Speer. -

I was unable to be present at the gathering of your friends, this afternoon. I was greatly disappointed not to be able to personally assure ^{you} of my very heartfelt congratulations to you, and to the Church, to which you have given these spiritually fruitful years of devoted service.

Many have told you and written you, in sincere and

affectionate appreciation of
your enlarging leadership
of the Church in its world
program. To me, the great
contribution of your life and
spirit, has been in your
profound and uplifting influ-
ence on the youth of the
Church.

As a boy, I remember,
very distinctly, my father
coming in one evening, with
the news of your election
as Secretary of the Board of
Foreign Missions. And from
that moment on, I heard
you at every possible meet-

REID STUART DICKSON
WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA

ing or conference, which I
could attend. Many many
young lives, that your spirit
touched, have come under
my notice - and as a grow-
ing boy and young man, I
dreamed dreams and saw
visions of service, ^{inspired by your life and message} which only
my father's death, and my
mother's dependence on me,
forced me to set aside.

What valiant ^{young} hearts,
you have led into the place
of struggle - and what multi-
tudes of lives, can rise up

and call you blessed.

I am proud in these days, to call you friend, and to be one of an innumerable company to call you also, my spiritual benefactor.

May God give you an increasingly rich fruition of your highest hopes and desires. May your strength endure, for your service is not done.

God's richest blessing, be yours. Cordially your friend
Aida F. McKim

Ans.
Jan 15, 38

476 Sturtevant Drive,
Sierra Madre, California,
January 27, 1938.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Ever since I first heard of your retirement I have thought of writing to you. Two things have kept me from doing so.

Of course I recognize that there must be a retiring age from such an important position as you have filled; but men like you and Dr. McAffee should not be subject to rules. So I have felt it hard to write to you because it seems to me wrong that you should be retired.

My other reason is personal, perhaps selfish and egotistical. I felt it deeply that I was not asked to contribute to the book of letters presented you or to the gift. I even wrote Dr. Young. He

told me he was acting on instructions, and did not himself know what people were being included in the invitation.

Well, no one ever had a greater love for you than I have; no one ever appreciated your work for foreign missions in general more than I have done; no one could possibly wish for you greater happiness and satisfaction during the rest of your life, than I do.

We greatly enjoyed having Dr. McAfee on the coast this fall. I have known him since he was three years old, being nine years older, I take rather a motherly interest in him. He preached a fine sermon in our church on Bible Sunday. Because of bronchial trouble I'm spending the winter in Sierra Madre Canyon, so get most of my entertainment over the radio, but I saw Obelard once.

Are you sure you have retired, is another I'm sure you have not. We look forward to seeing you out here. The last time I saw you, you spoke in OPC as "The Hidden Christ." Dr. Freeman is improving, has preached for two Sundays.
Yours sincerely,
Mary C. Colquhoun.



Dear Robert:

I am proud of you. You have performed a singularly titanic task with conspicuous success. The whole Church of God stands indebted to you. From the day of my sojourn at Princeton, you have been an inspiration to me. You can little realize how far and how deeply

Your fine Christian spirit has
radiated to how many lives you
have influenced in one way or another.
If, as I believe, life here is a prophecy I
envy your future there. I was "proud"
to begin with - I end by thanking God.

Affectionately
Albert

Dr Robert E Speer
November 7, 1944 - Shiraz, Iran

SQUIRREL OAKS
FERNWOOD AND NORWOOD
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

November 2, 1931

My Dear Rob.

I can't express the love
I have for you or the gratitude for
your true friendship and help all
these forty-five years since I
first met you when I went as
a freshman to Princeton. You
have never failed me in any way

and it has meant more than
I can say to know that you are
my friend. We thank God too
for your rich service in the Church,
in mission work, among students,
through your writings, your addresses,
your counsel, your friendship
and above all for your revelation
of Christ in your life. He has
lived & lives in you. ever affectionately
Delavan.

Missoula, Montana.

October 29th

My dear Dr. Speer:

I very much wish

I could be at "156" next Monday
when your friends gather to
honor you, at the completion of

forty years service under
the Board. It is a wonderful
record and we are all so
thankful for your leadership
during these years. There
will be others, all around the

world, who will smile-with us in
giving God thanks for you
and your service.

Very sincerely yours.

Lawrence B. Taylor

[Mrs Andrew Todd Taylor]

October 30, 1931

Dear Dr. Speer,

May I add my little word to the many you will receive on this important occasion! While I can claim only ten years of Board association with you, I am taking this opportunity of telling you that you were introduced to me many years ago in a way quite unknown to you.

My father's name was Robert Elliott

Putt Elliott
Greetings for the next 40 years!

And one day when I was in Grammar or High School - 1902 or 1903 - he brought home for me your book "Remember Jesus Christ." I think he was partly attracted by the similarity of his name and yours, but the book made a great impression upon me. At that time we lived in Boston, and when I later went to Wellesley I of course heard you speak at College.

So you see you early had a part in my religious training! No doubt there are thousands of such stories you have never heard.

Ruth Elliott
and one day when I was in Grammar a High
School - 1902 or 1903 - he brought home
for me your book "Remember Jesus Christ."
I think he was partly attracted by the
similarity of his name and yours, but

the book made a great impression upon
me. At that time we lived in Boston,
and when I later went to Wellesley I of
course heard you speak at College.

Greetings for the next
40 years!

So you see you early had a part in
my religious training! No doubt there are
thousands of such stories you have never heard.

Montclair. Sep. 21, '37.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer—

May I add
my felicitations and best wishes,
as you leave the Board. I re-
member so well your wedding-
trip and your visit in Italy,
as you began your life-work.
Didn't Mrs. Speer make her

"maiden-speech" at our mission-
dinner? It's a long trail we
have gone since then, but
goodness and mercy have fol-
lowed us through joy and sorrows.

I never have felt that I
have retired from connection
with the Board and have re-
joiced in the new link

(2)

through Ned and Rose
and of late years, living in
their home, it has been a
privilege to meet their mis-
sionary guests and to attend
the Wednesday morning meetings.
So I have been thrilled with
Dr. Speer's addresses and been
proud that our Church had

such a Statesman as our
Secretary of Foreign Affairs.
But I think of you both not
officially, rather as dear per-
sonal friends of three generations.
I wish you happy years of
continued service and thank
you for all you and your home have
given to the world -
Your old friend
Annie Rhea Wilson

MISS M. JOSEPHINE PETRIE
319 EAST SIXTH STREET
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Nov. 3. 1931

My dear Dr. Heer -

It was a joy and pride to be one of the "elect" company at your "coming out-party" yesterday and I was sorry that family cares prevented my remaining for the social hour - We have all rejoiced over your service

through the years, and you know I
have had a chance to watch you at
rather close range over thirty three of
those forty years -

May our Father continue His choicest
blessings and definite guidance thro
many years to come for you and yours.

Sincerely

Dr. Josephine Petrie

I should sail late in October or early in November.
With every wish for a very happy day tomorrow, & all the days thereafter

Yours



HOTEL MCALPIN
NEW YORK

Most sincerely
Arlene H. Dean

D12

Sept. 9 - 1937.

My dear Dr. Speer;

In last Monday's

D. Y. Times, I noticed that you are reaching the "three score & ten" mark tomorrow, - & I want to be among

your many friends to thank God for your wonderfully fruitful service for our Lord Jesus Christ, & to wish you many added years of even more blessed service & an ever-growing peace.

Altho' I wish in no way to mar the felicity of this great day, ushering in a new life period for you, - yet

I would not be true to our Saviour
+ to God our Father, if I did not also
profess my sorrow + disappointment
that you have not used the great
popularity + influence God entrusted
to you, to purge out every bit of
the leaven of unbelief + false
teaching from the personnel at home
+ abroad in the Foreign Missions'
Enterprise of your Church. It could
have been accomplished tactfully
+ without very much publicity, if
you + Dr. Erdman had firmly insisted
on the right measures being taken,
+ had used your great gifts to win
general acceptance of the ideal of
a Church purified + cleansed from

all unbelief. - Because - we know "that whatsoever
is not of faith is sin" - and that our Lord repeatedly
stipulated faith - as "If thou canst believe; all things
are possible to him that believeth." When mission-
aries go out, - or pastors at home preach, - with
unbelief in their hearts + on their lips, regarding
clearly stated facts + teachings in the Holy
Scriptures, they sow tares + not wheat. + that is
simply spiritual disaster. And that is the
tragedy of the Presby Church (+ other churches also)
today. And the world is turning away from God
everywhere, because the Church is so lax, it can
draw few to Him. So weak in evangelistic conviction
that it cannot arrest the attention of the criminal

The worldly, the Covetous, as once it did.
Adding names to Church rolls means
little to ~~me~~ - for the necessity of the New
Birth is so rarely taught from modern
pulpits. People do not understand that
to be saved, means a complete change
of their whole natures, a transformation
of their whole lives, henceforth to be
"dead unto sin, but alive unto God."

I have spent two winters in India
& had many blessed evangelistic
opportunities there. I cannot be there in
summer however because the great
heat is dangerous for cardiac cases, & I
cannot anymore go to "the hills" because
of the altitude: As I have "but 50% of
normal cardiac strength", I am rather
in doubt as to whether I should return
there this year or not, & am just waiting
a bit to see more clearly. If I go, I suppose

Sept. 9 - 1937.



HOTEL M'CALPIN
NEW YORK

With every wish for a very happy day tomorrow, & all the days thereafter
I am
Most Sincerely
Adeline W. Dixon

My dear Dr. Spear:

In last Monday's

D. V. Times, I noticed that you are reaching the "three score & ten" mark tomorrow, - & I want to be among your many friends to thank God for your wonderfully fruitful service for our Lord Jesus Christ, & to wish you many added years of even more blessed service & an ever growing peace.
Altho' I wish in no way to mar the felicity of this great day, I believe in a new life period for you. - yet I should sail late in October or early in November.

For Sept. 10th

FRANK D. GAMEWELL
4709 PINE STREET, 10-K
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Sept. 9, 1937.

WR

My dear D. P. Sheer:-

For several weeks your approaching birthday has been much in my thought, and yet I have hesitated to write, knowing the hosts of your friends, privileged with closer association than I, would be writing you, and all but inundating you with their greetings. Now your most welcome letter has reached me and I answer it once, to thank you for it and its kind expressions, and to wish you a blessed birthday, full of the peace that passeth understanding.

In retiring from the work of the Board you are freeing yourself for a yet larger service, and I trust some of the most useful years of your singularly useful life are yet to come. With countless others, I have been helped by your addresses, by your writings, and by your life, more than I could easily make you know.

We are so glad your daughter Margaret is here with you.

Affectionately & gratefully yours,

Frank D. Gurneally.

Maria McJ Gillmore
F. E. Speer

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OCT 20 1931

124 EAST 84TH STREET

October 29.

Ans. _____

My dear Dr. Speer -

Thank you
very much for sending
me Dr. Hutchison's address.
I am always awfully sorry
for the disappointment
of a returned missionary.
Dr. Hutchison's spirit is
wonderful. He and I moved
about a circuit once to-

gether and I learned to great-
ly admire him. He made
it hard at that time, for
Dr. Jordan for he was so
much more in demand.
As far as that goes, though,
he was much more in
demand than I was, too!
In the interest of accuracy
I must correct a sentence
I wrote you this fall. It was
a few days before Elliott

and Polly left Northfield that
& dined with them - not a
few days before they sailed.
Not very important work
in the interests of assurance.
Two of your men spoke at
a missionary meeting at
our church this month
and made a fine im-
pression. They were Mr.
Edwardas and Mr. Thoburn.
They both speak extremely

well. Mr. Schwarz gave us
a few little slabs as Americans
and Quakers - but they
were entirely true. Indians
generally do that, I think.
I am looking forward to
your reception on Monday.
It seems a small way of
honoring a man who has
done more for the cause of
missions than any one
else in the world.

Very sincerely yours,
Maria McLoquie Gilmore

